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LEONARDI
Williams



I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND AT FIRST, LYLA.

I HADN'T REGISTERED THAT I'D UNDERGONE A CHANGE. EVERYTHING WAS NUMB.

I WAS STARING AT MY HANDS, BUT MY VISION WAS SO WHACKED THAT I REALLY DIDN'T SEE THEM.

THERE WAS A BUZZING IN MY EAR. I STILL DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS AARON DELGATO'S VOICE...

...OR MY SUBCONSCIOUS MIND SCREAMING AT MY CONSCIOUS MIND, TELLING IT NOT TO LET ME IN ON WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

BUT I'D FIND OUT... SOON ENOUGH.

NOTHING VENTURED...

STAN LEE PRESENTS THE ORIGIN OF SPIDER-MAN 2099 BY

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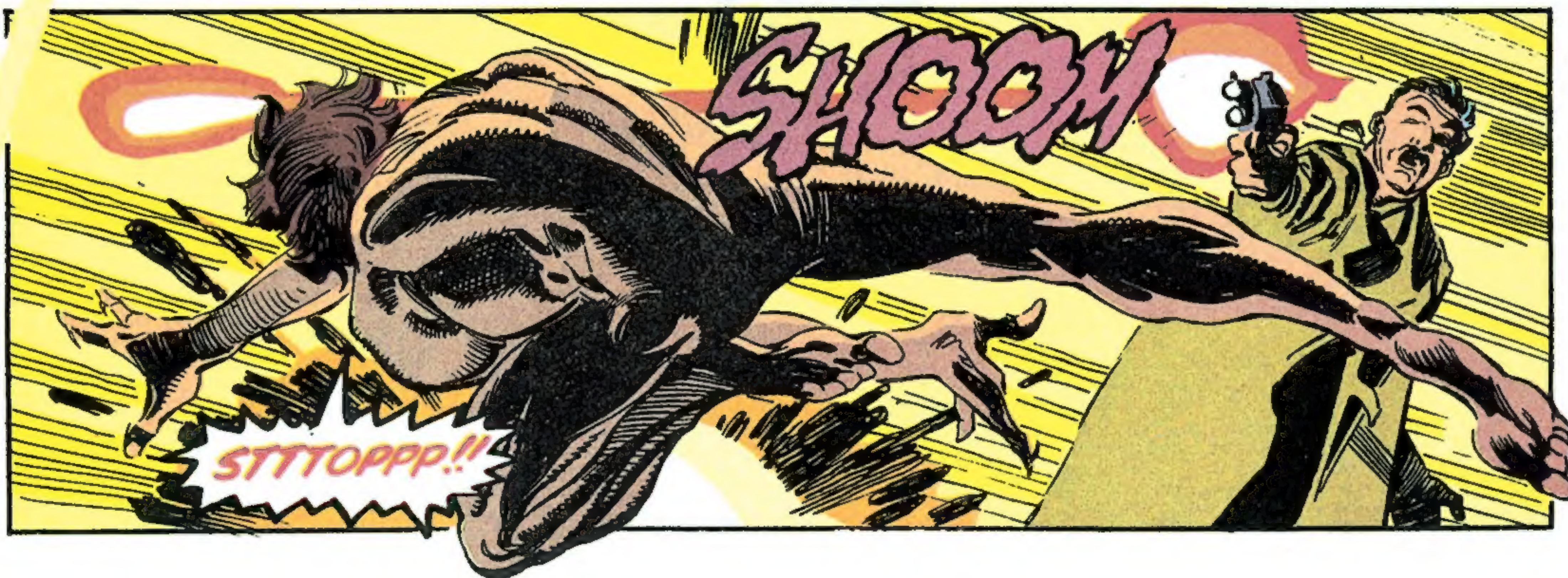
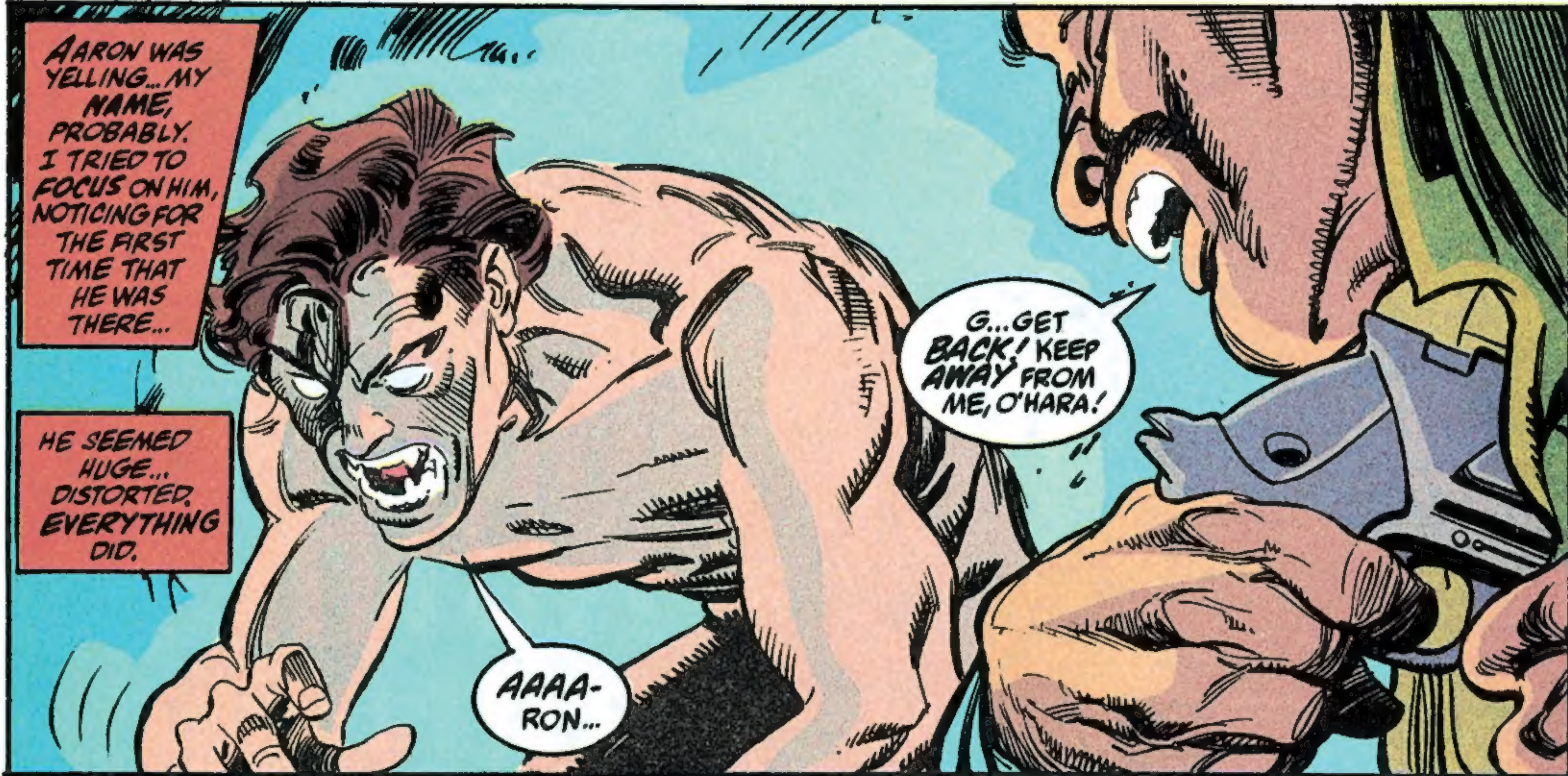
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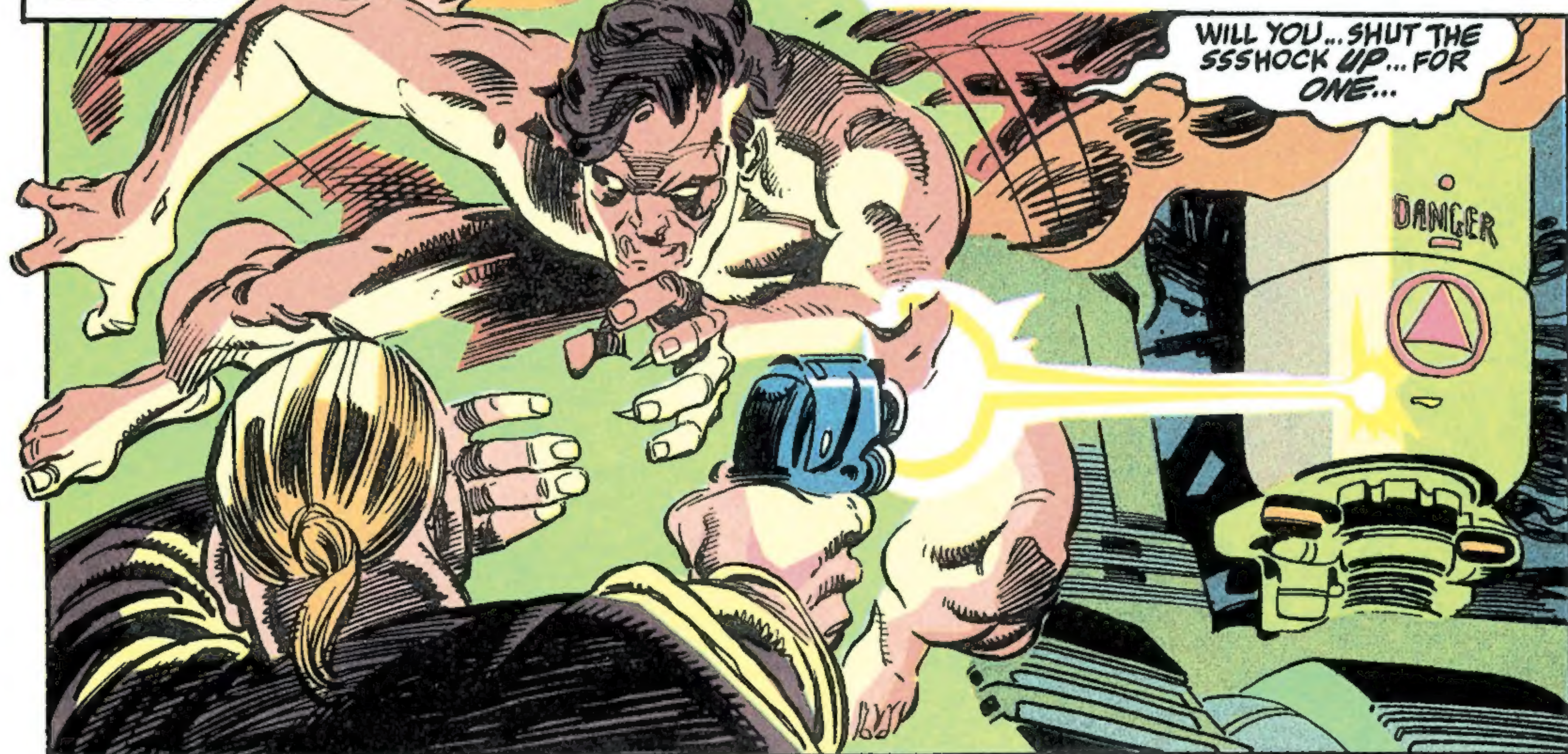
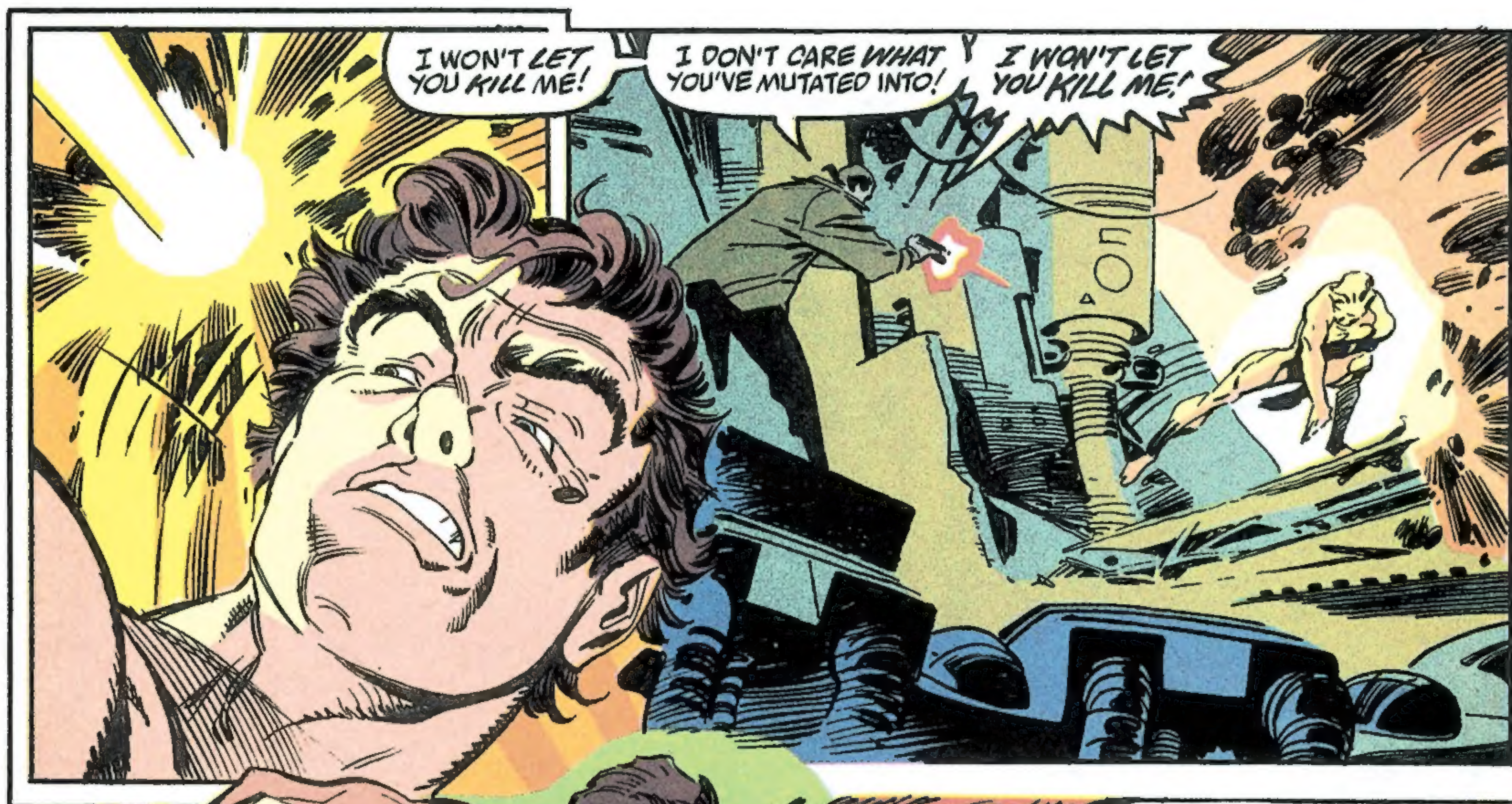
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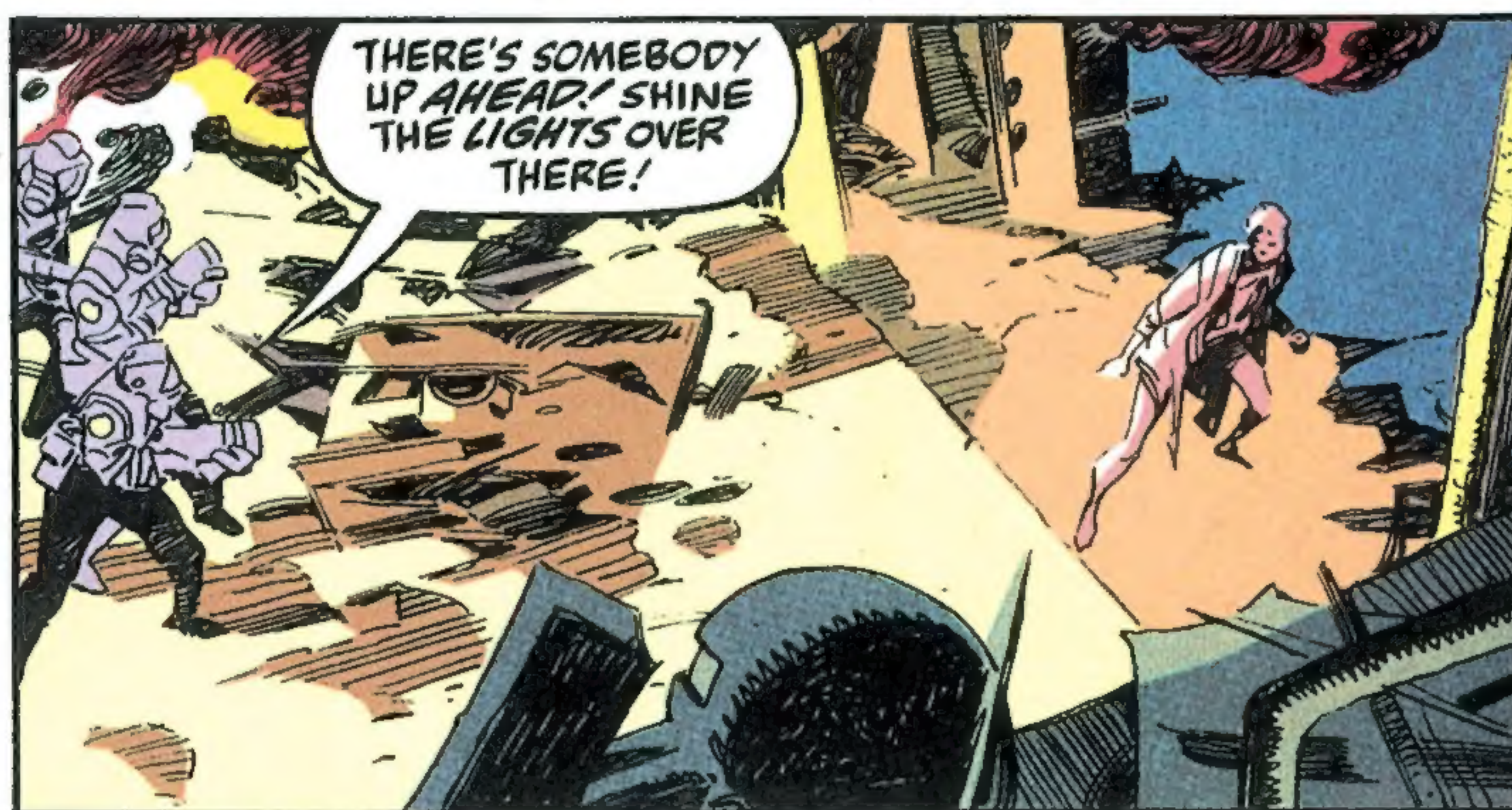
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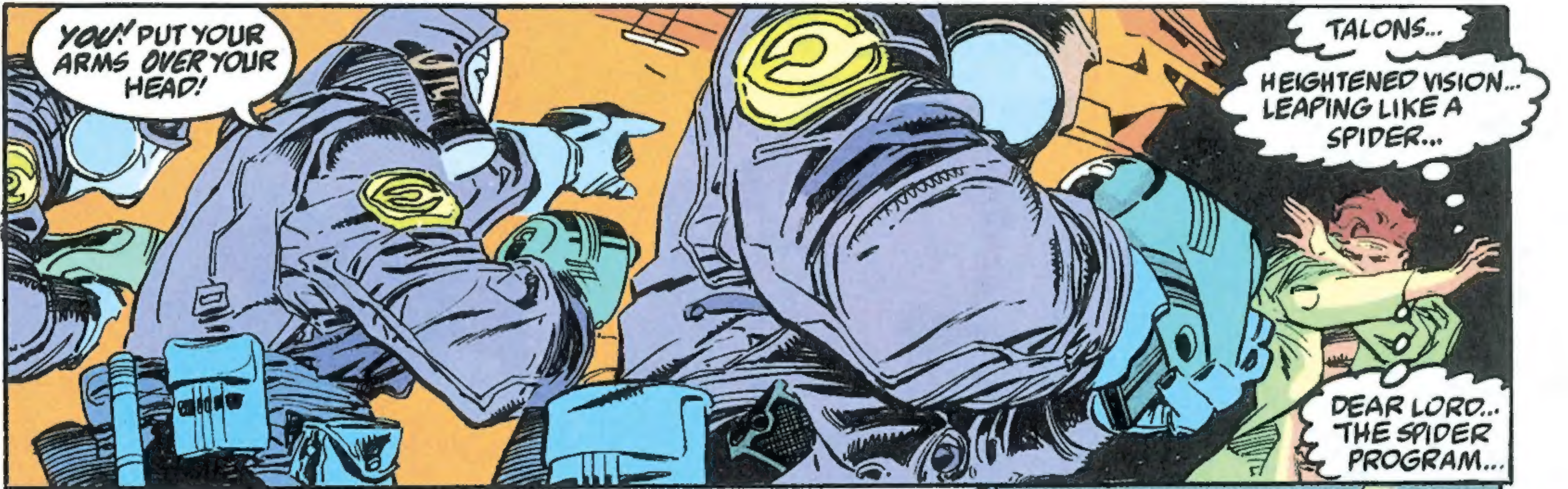
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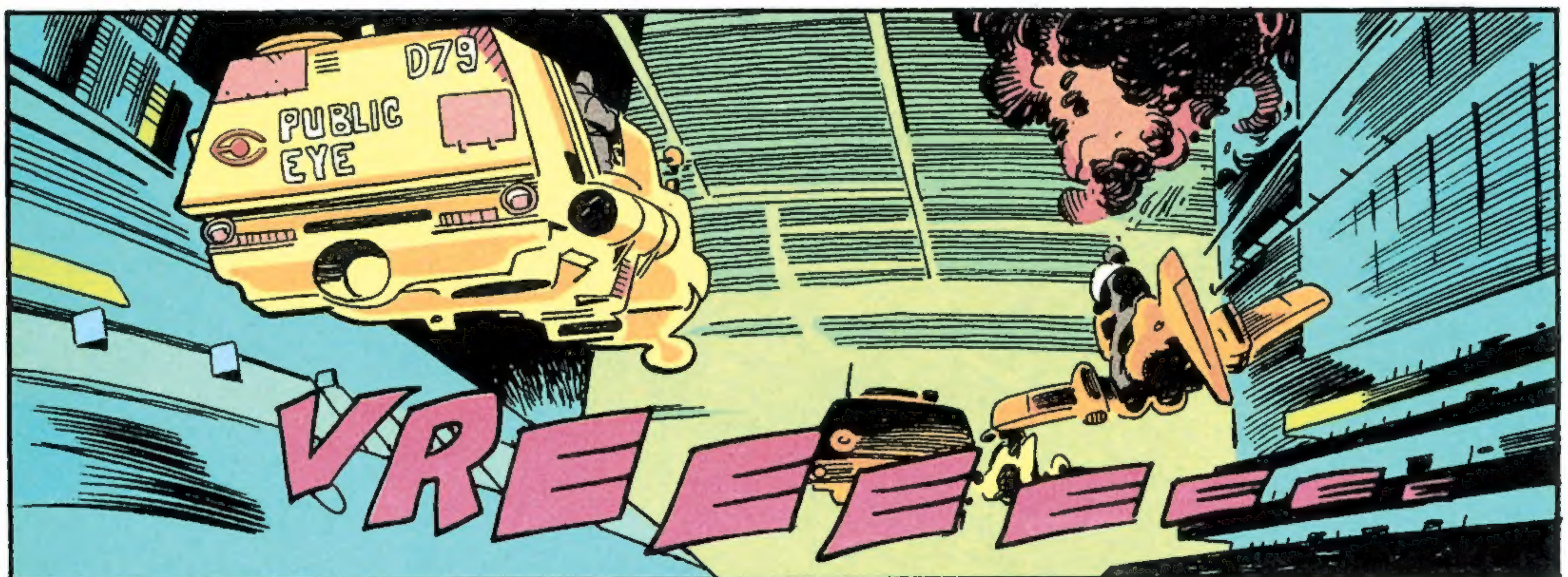
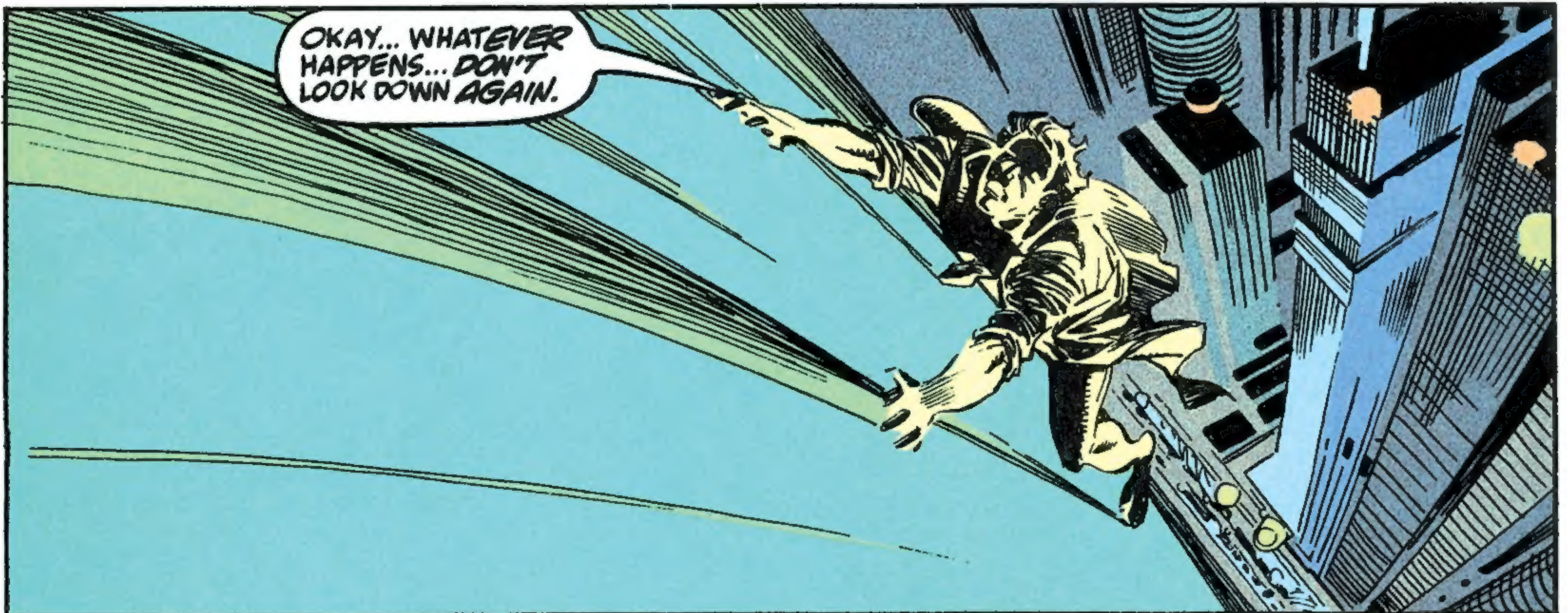


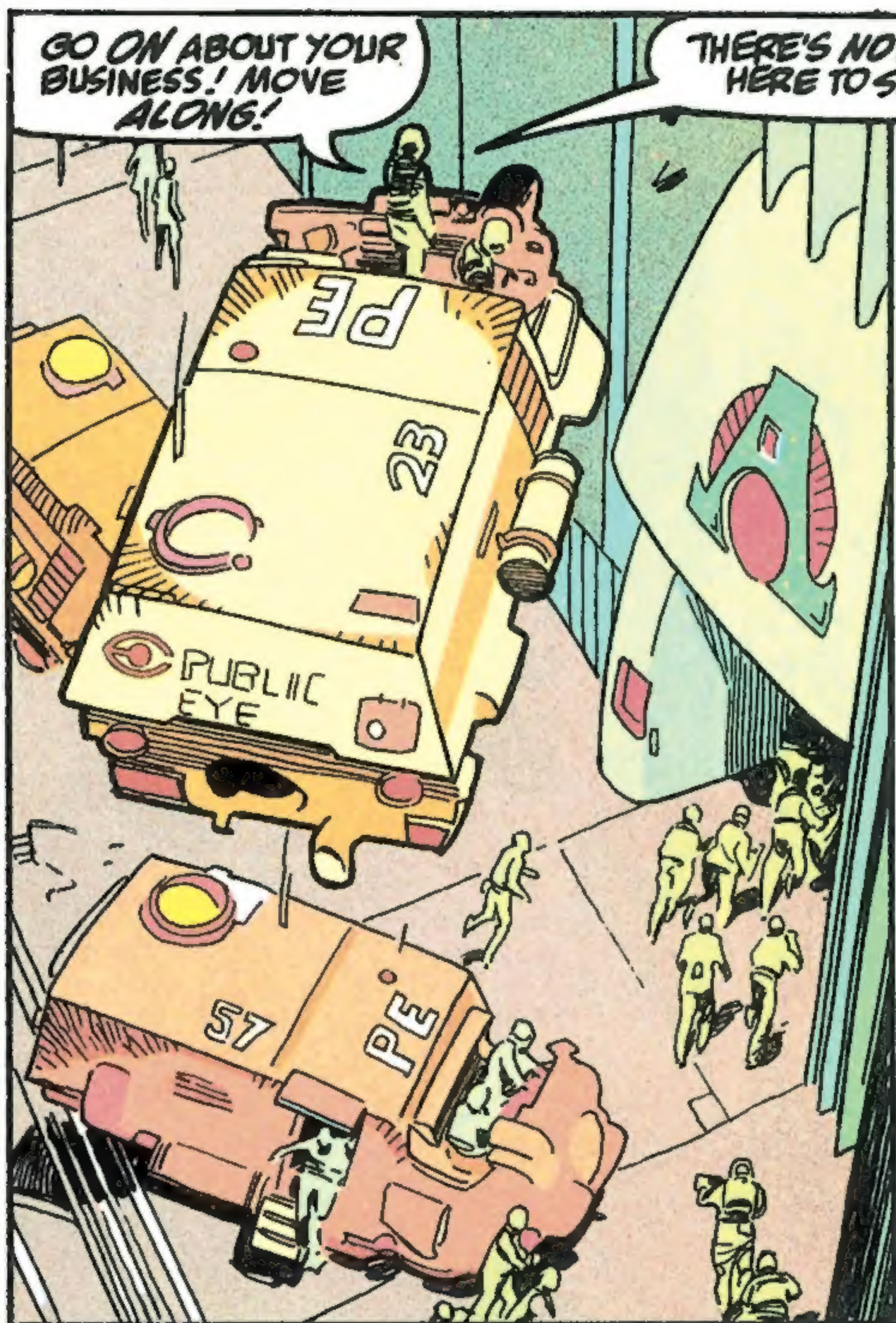




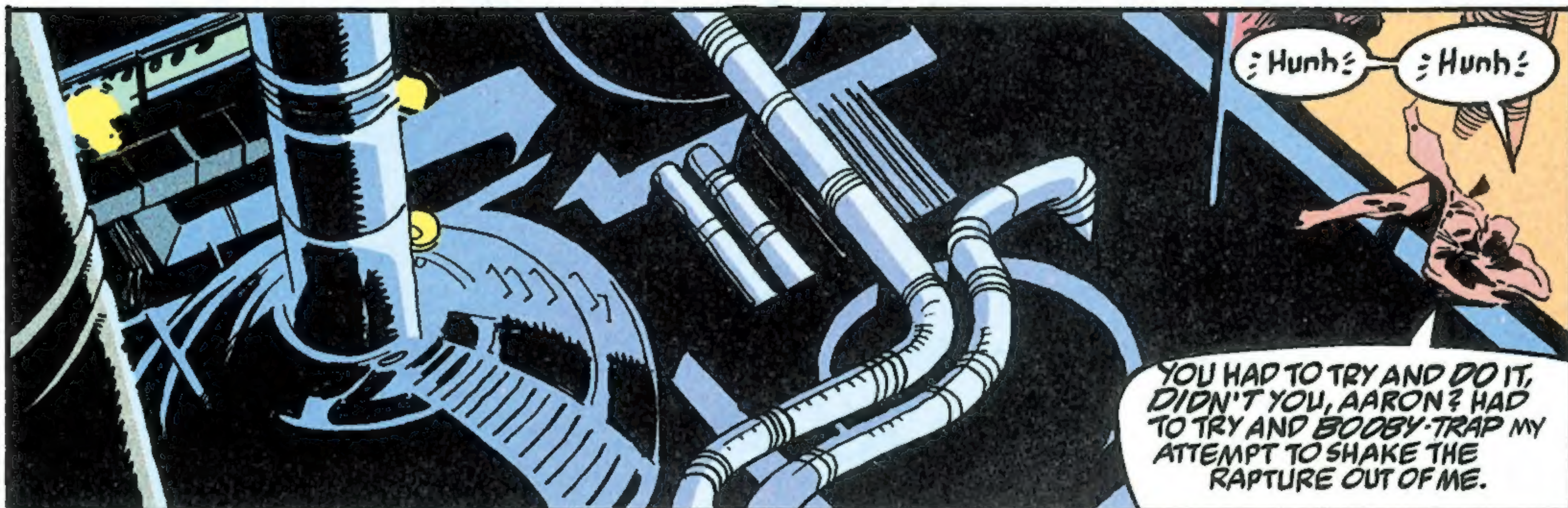
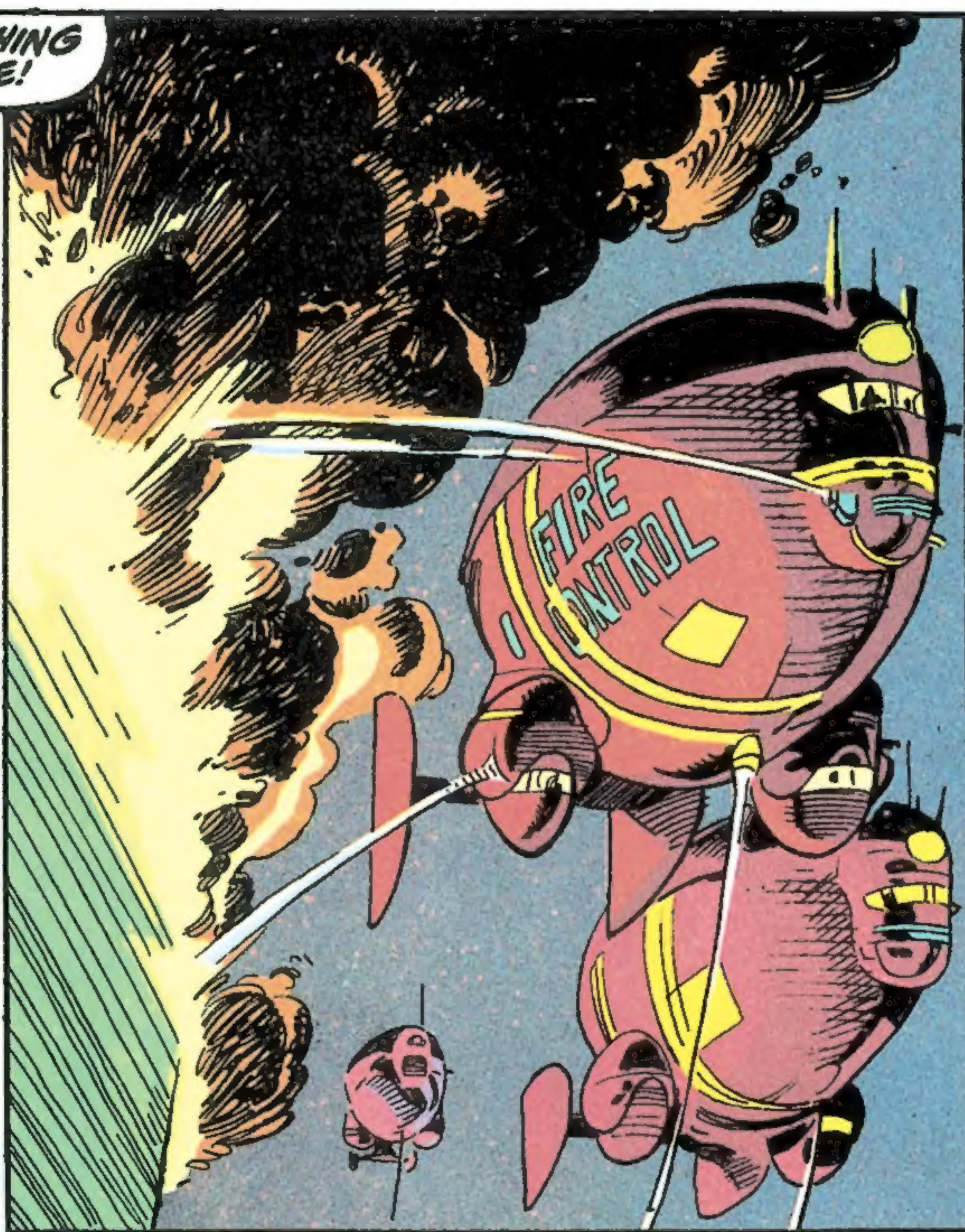








THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO SEE!



YOU HAD TO TRY AND DO IT, DIDN'T YOU, AARON? HAD TO TRY AND BOOBY-TRAP MY ATTEMPT TO SHAKE THE RAPTURE OUT OF ME.



DELGATO, YOU IDIOT. IF YOU WERE GOING TO ATTEMPT MURDER...

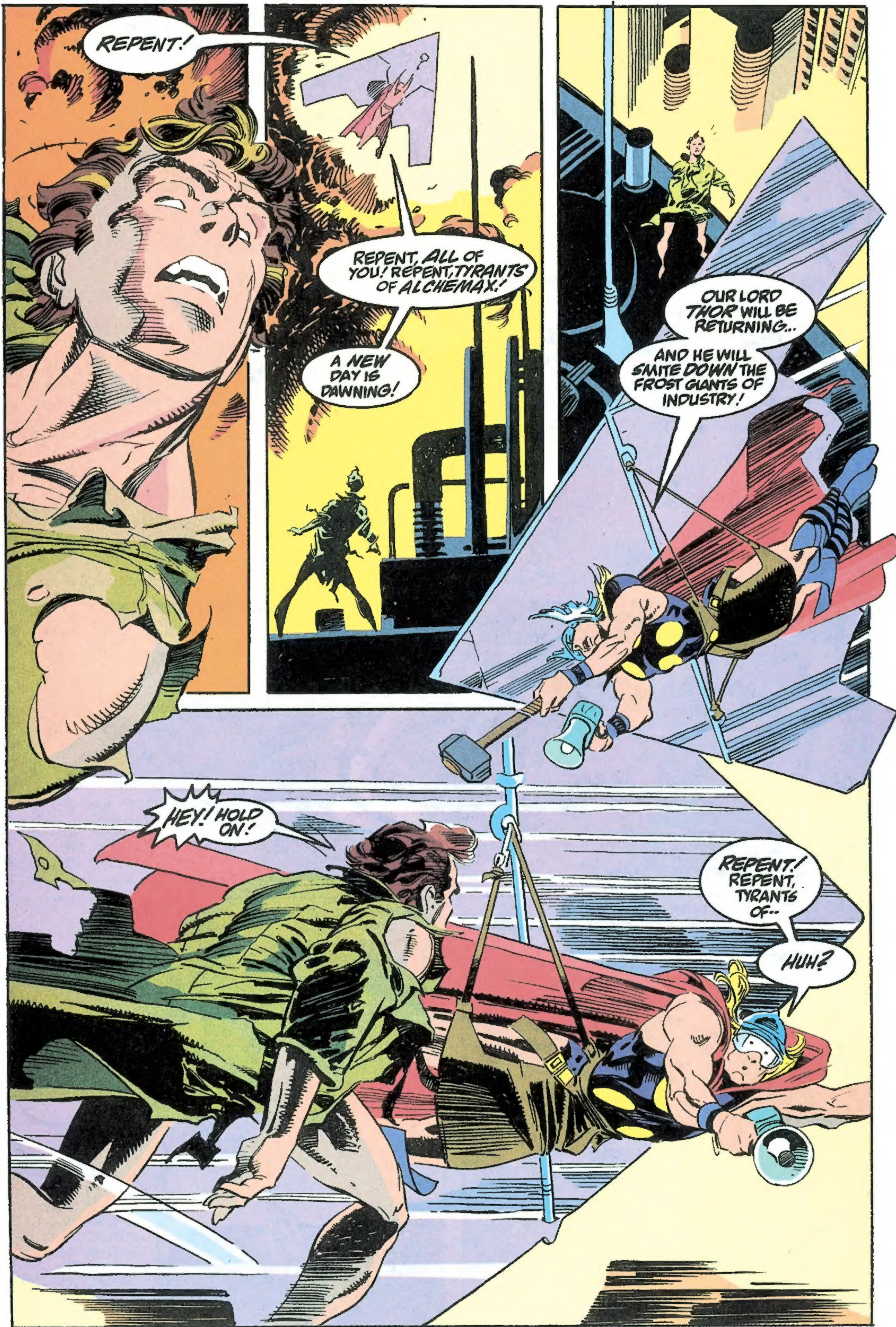
THE LEAST YOU COULD HAVE DONE WAS DO THE JOB RIGHT.



INSTEAD YOU LEFT ME LIKE THIS...

AND I HAVEN'T GOT THE GUTS TO FINISH THE JOB FOR YOU.

DON'T KNOW WHERE I WAS RUNNING TO. PUBLIC EYEBALLS WILL BE HERE IN A SECOND. THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO DO NOW BUT...



REPENT!

REPENT, ALL OF YOU! REPENT, TYRANTS OF ALCHEMAX!

A NEW DAY IS DAWNING!

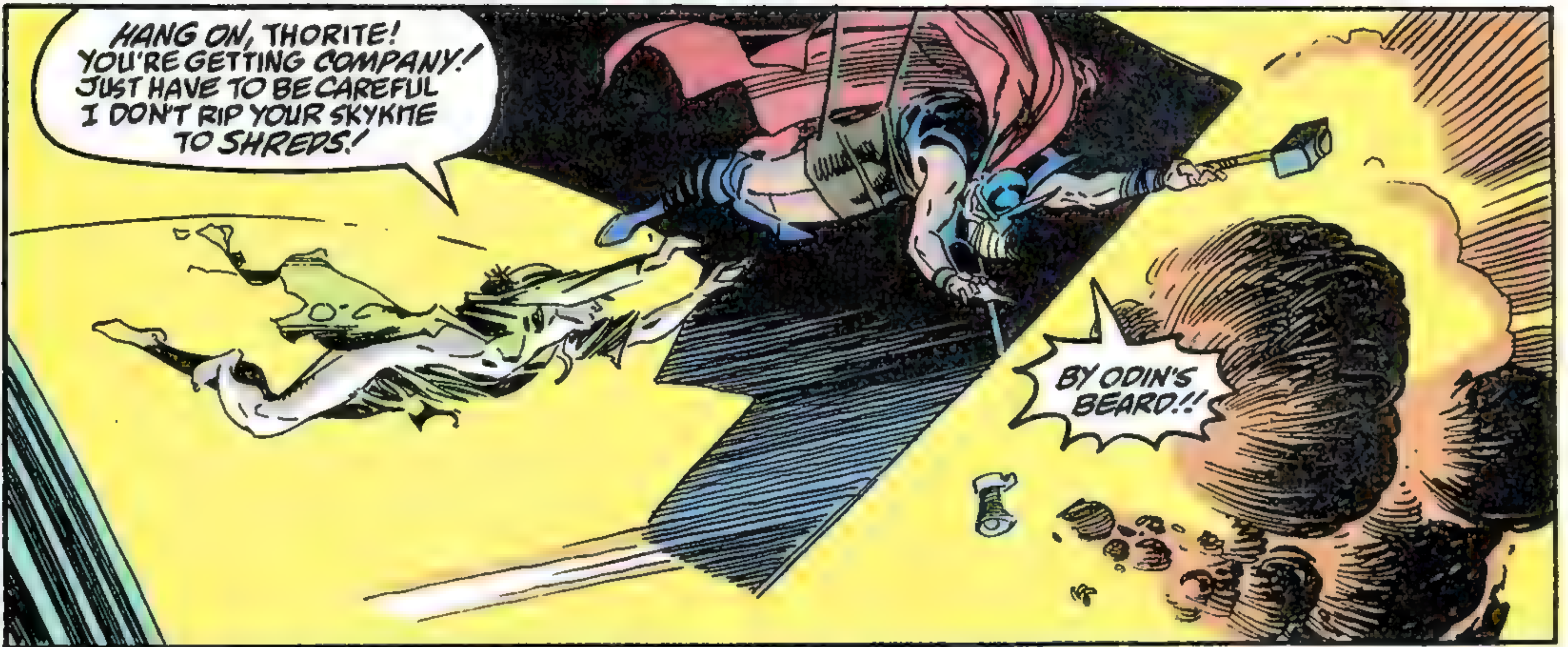
OUR LORD THOR WILL BE RETURNING...

AND HE WILL SMITE DOWN THE FROST GIANTS OF INDUSTRY!

HEY! HOLD ON!

REPENT! REPENT, TYRANTS OF--

HUH?



HANG ON, THORITE!
YOU'RE GETTING COMPANY!
JUST HAVE TO BE CAREFUL
I DON'T RIP YOUR SKYKNE
TO SHREDS!

BY ODIN'S
BEARD!!



WHAT MANNER OF
BIZARRE BEING
ART THOU?!

COME
AGAIN?

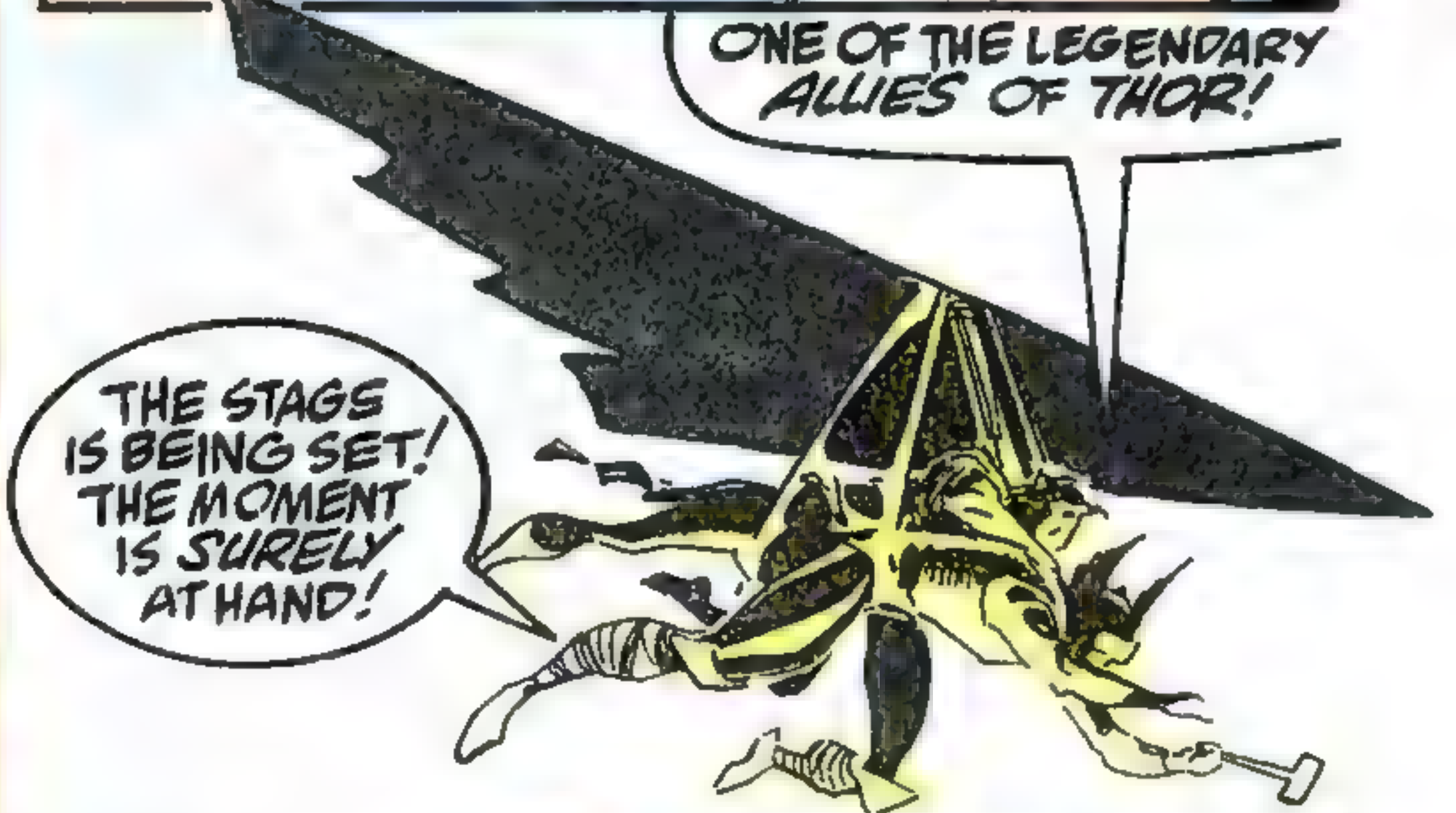
I SAID
WHO THE
SHOCK
ARE YOU?!



I DUNNO. THE
EASTER BUNNY.
SANTA CLAUS.
SPIDER-MAN.
TAKE YOUR PICK.

SP-SPIDER-MAN?!

ONE OF THE LEGENDARY
ALLIES OF THOR!

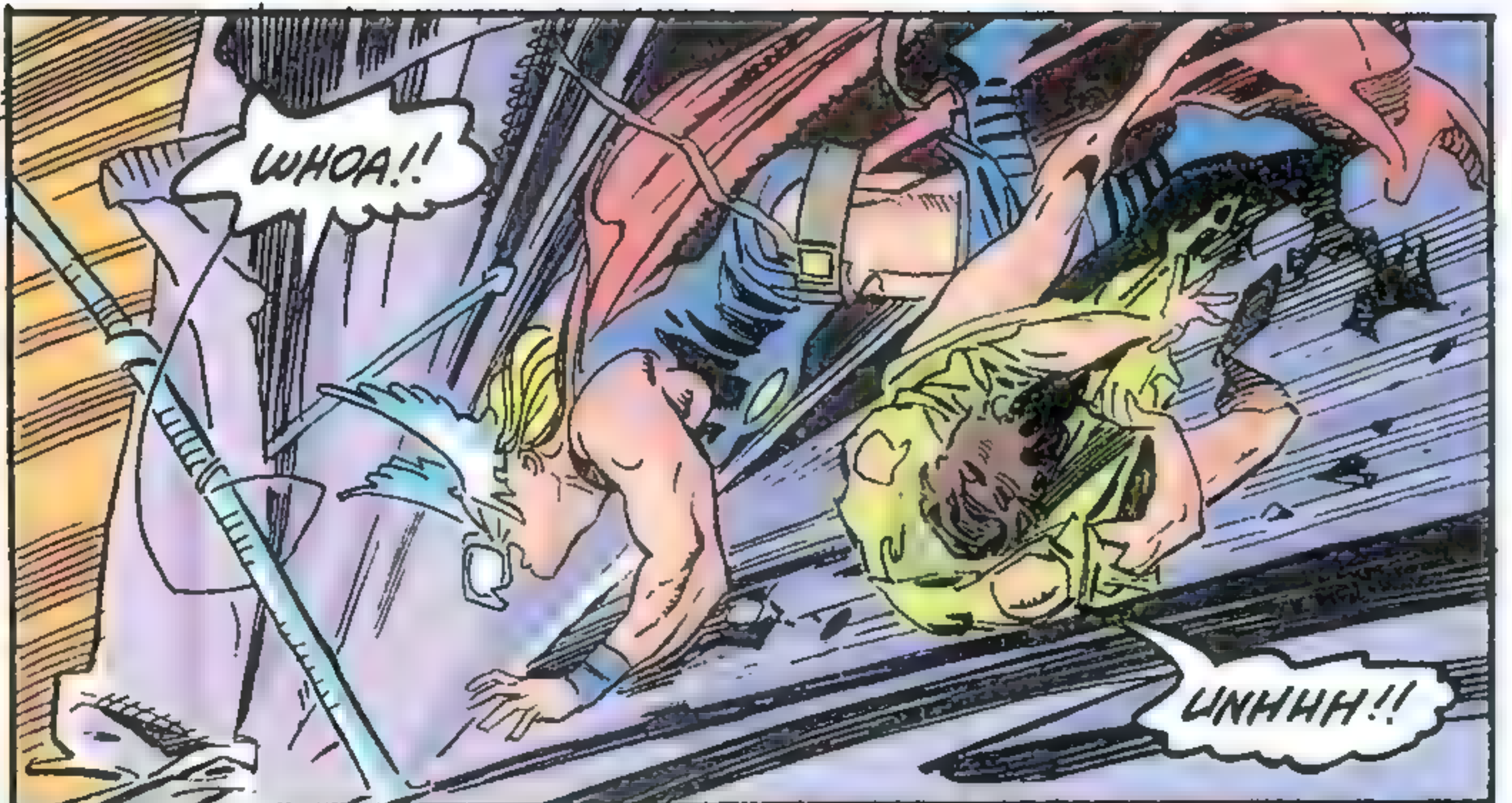


THE STAGE
IS BEING SET!
THE MOMENT
IS SURELY
AT HAND!



ALL HAIL
SPIDER-MAN!
ALL HAIL THE
HARBINGER
OF THOR!

I SHOULD
HAVE JUST
LET THEM
SHOOT
ME.



SORRY. I WRECKED UP YOUR SKY-KITE PRETTY GOOD. MAYBE YOU CAN... I DUNNO... SEW IT BACK TOGETHER OR SOMETHING.



YOU FAILED AGAIN, STONE. THIS IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF YOUR ASSASSIN.

ALCHEMAX STANDARDS SEEM TO HAVE DETERIORATED SINCE MY EMPLOYMENT IN THE ELITE.

MY DEAR TIGER WYLDE, OFFICIALLY, ALCHEMAX DENIES ANY CONNECTION TO THE ALLEGED ASSASSIN. YOUR LONG-AGO DEPARTURE IS OF LITTLE CONCERN TO THE FIRM.

DON'T PATRONIZE ME, STONE. YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT LATVERIA.

IF ALCHEMAX WANTS WAR, I'LL GLADLY OBLIGE. AND I'LL TAKE GREAT SATISFACTION IN PERSONALLY GRINDING YOU INTO DUST.

TIGER WYLDE, YOUR THREATS DON'T...

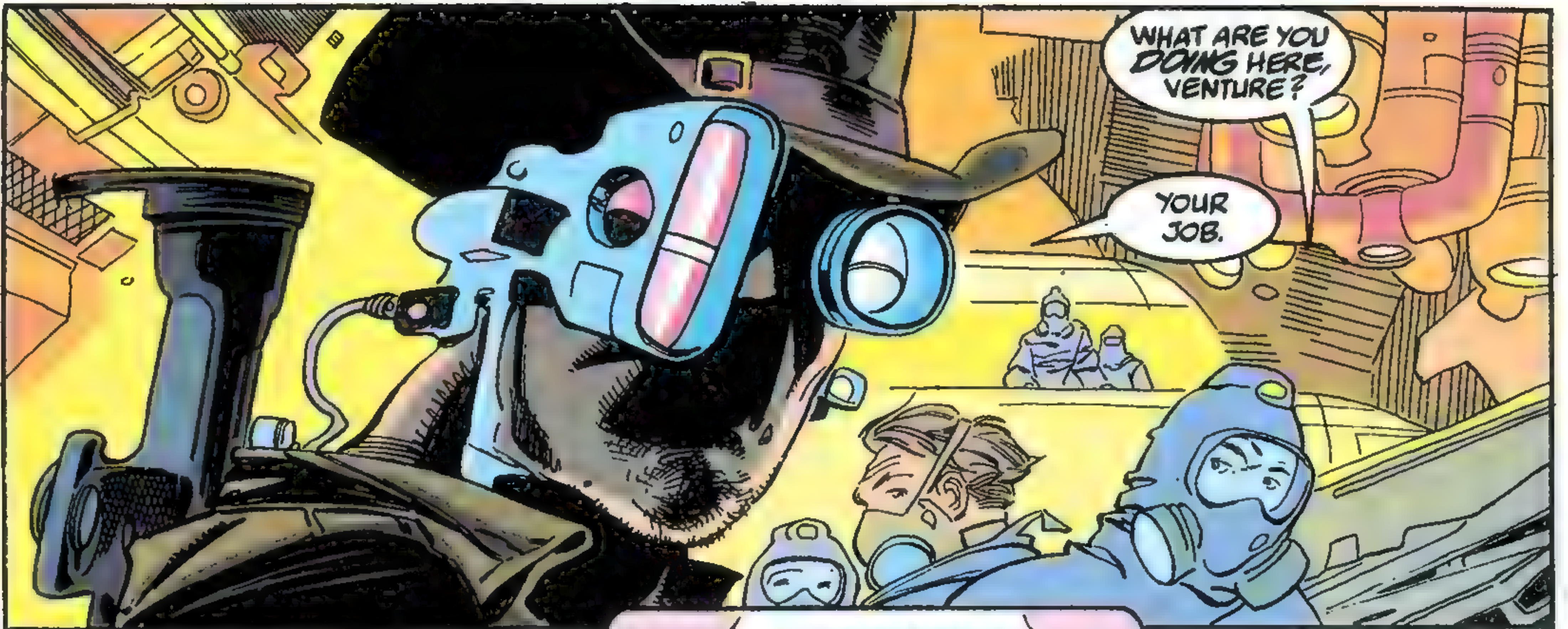
TIGER WYLDE?

BURN THE MAN!

MABEL! TELL DR. CRANE TO GET HIS SCRAWNY BUTT UP HERE! AND WHERE'S VENTURE? I SUMMONED HIM AN HOUR AGO!

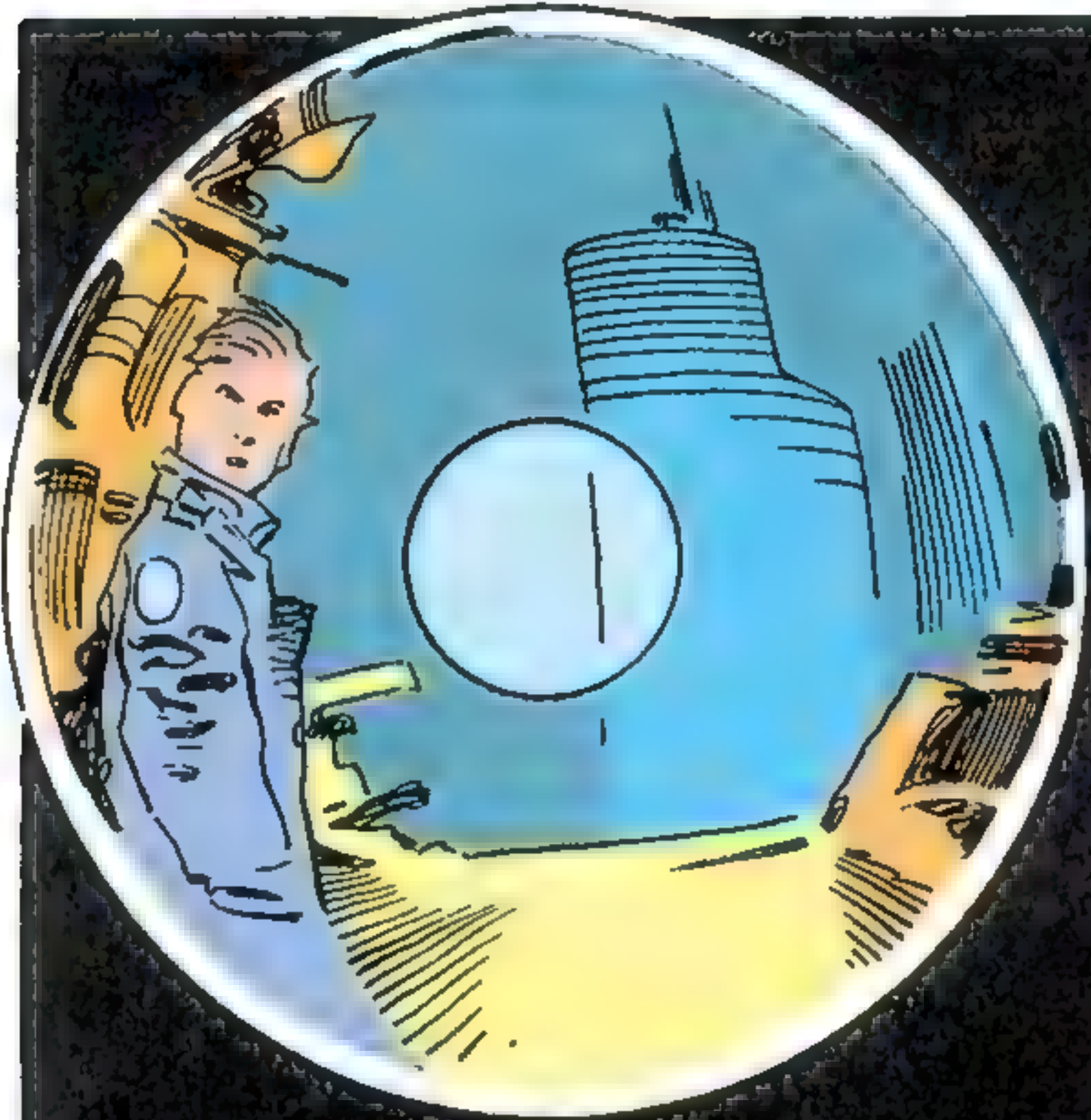
VENTURE IS IN THE BUILDING, MR. STONE. HE'S INSPECTING THE DAMAGE SITE.

EXCUSE ME. ONE SIDE, PLEASE.



WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE,
VENTURE?

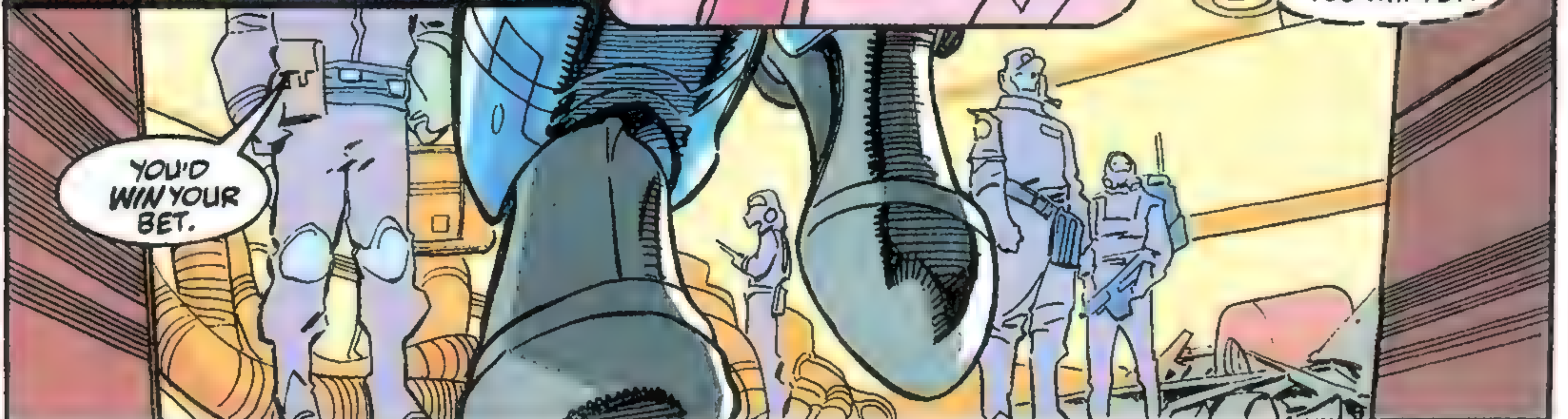
YOUR
JOB.



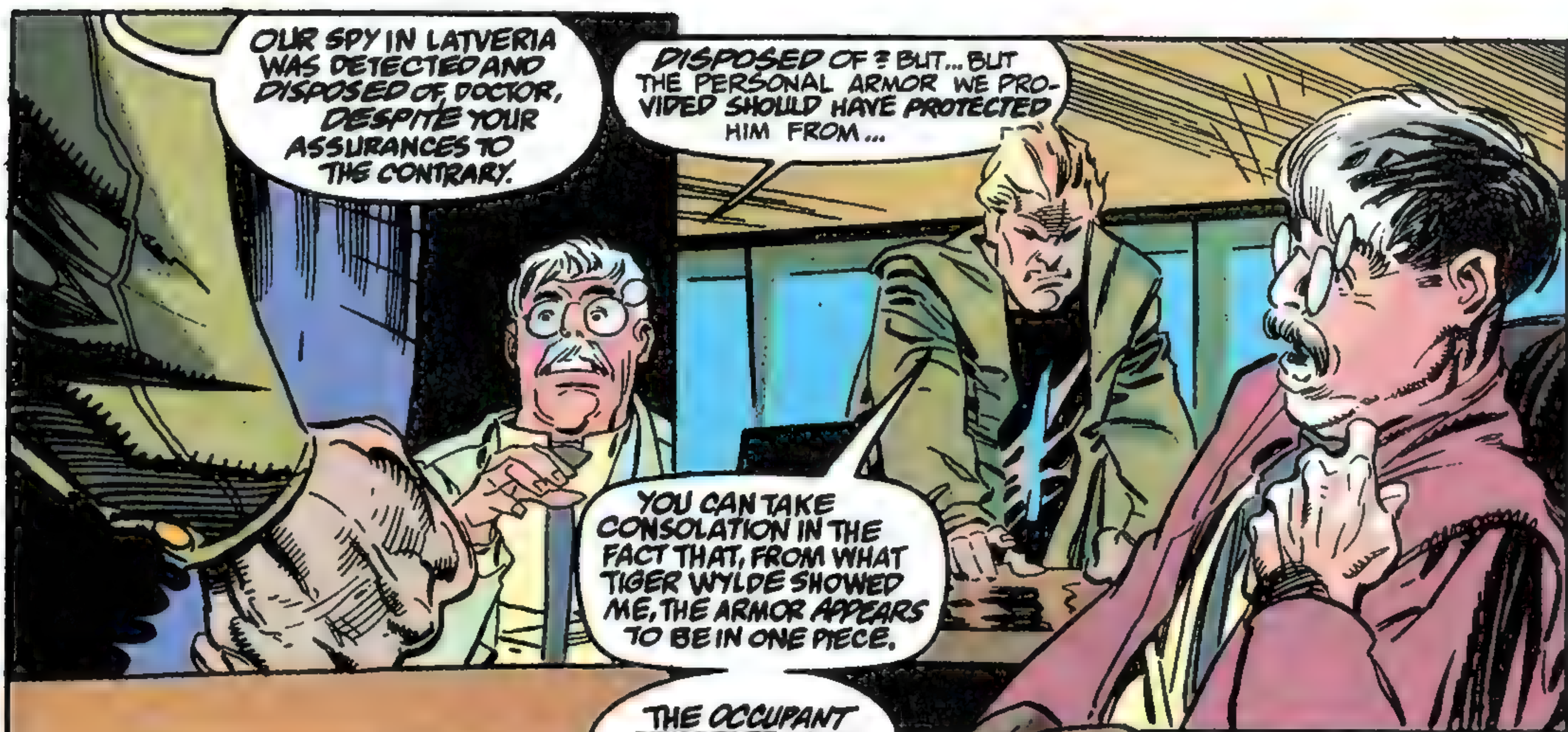
JUST STANDS
THERE, STARING.
ALL THESE "ELITE"
GUYS GIVE ME THE
CREEPS.

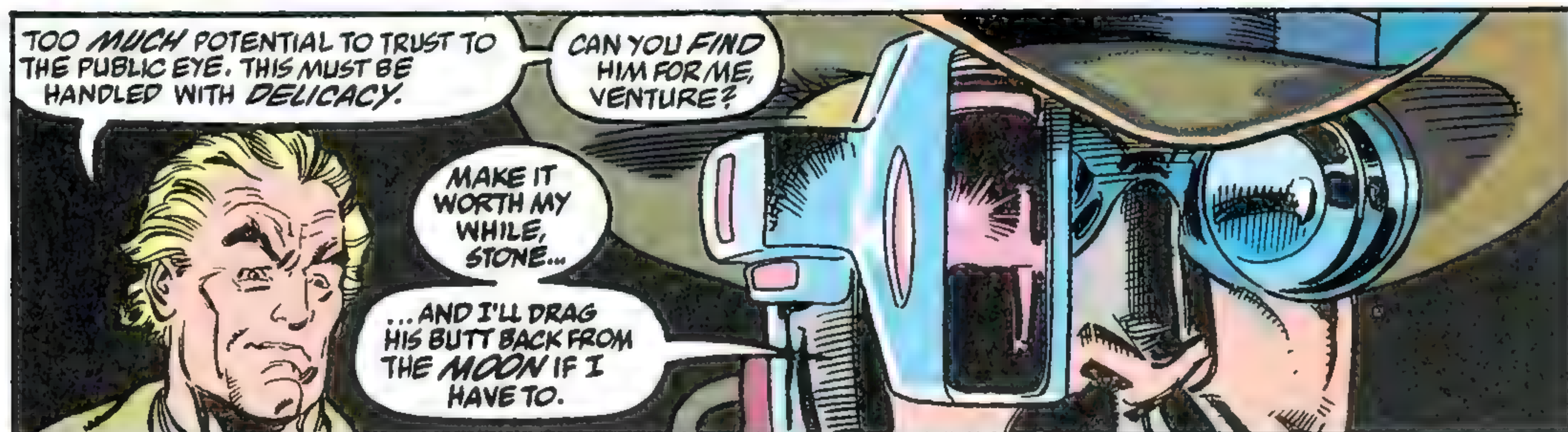
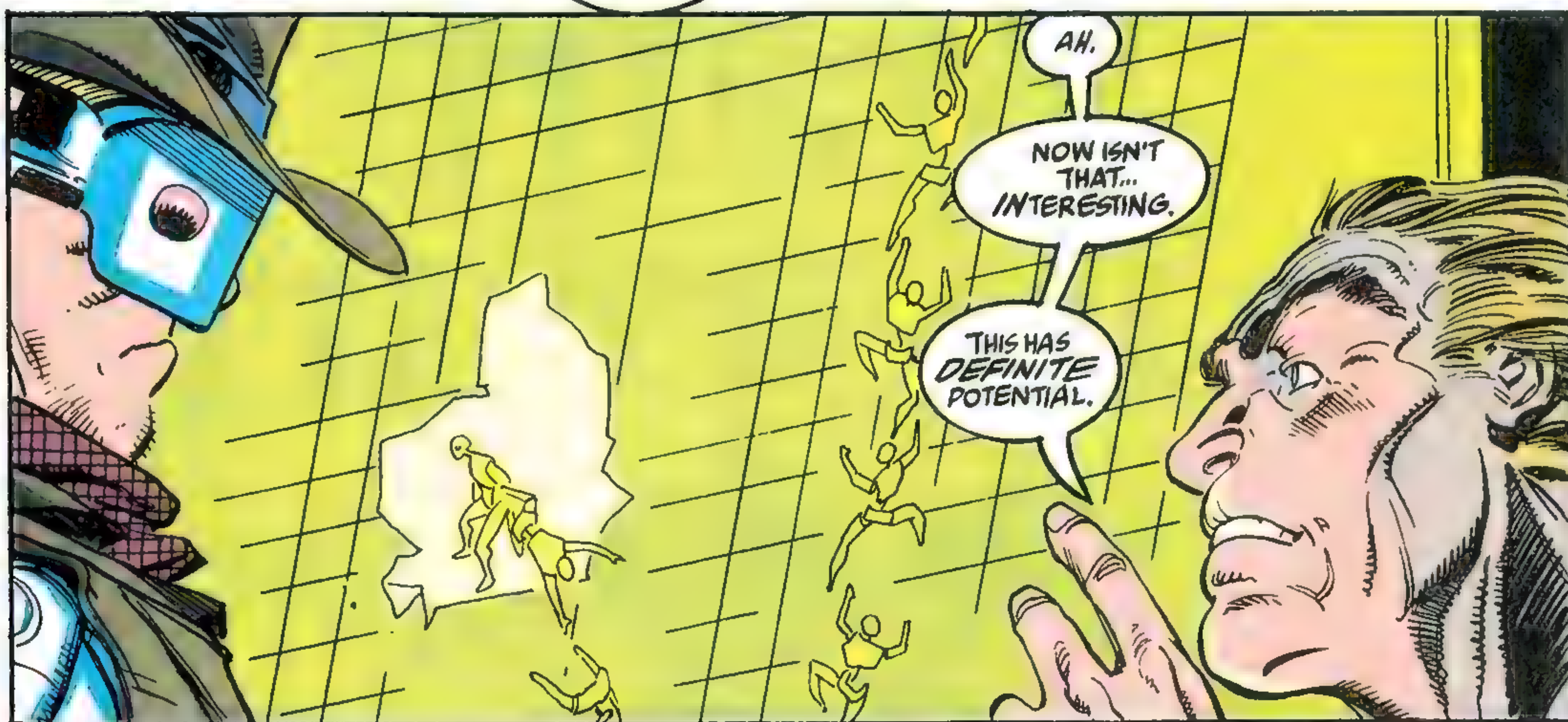
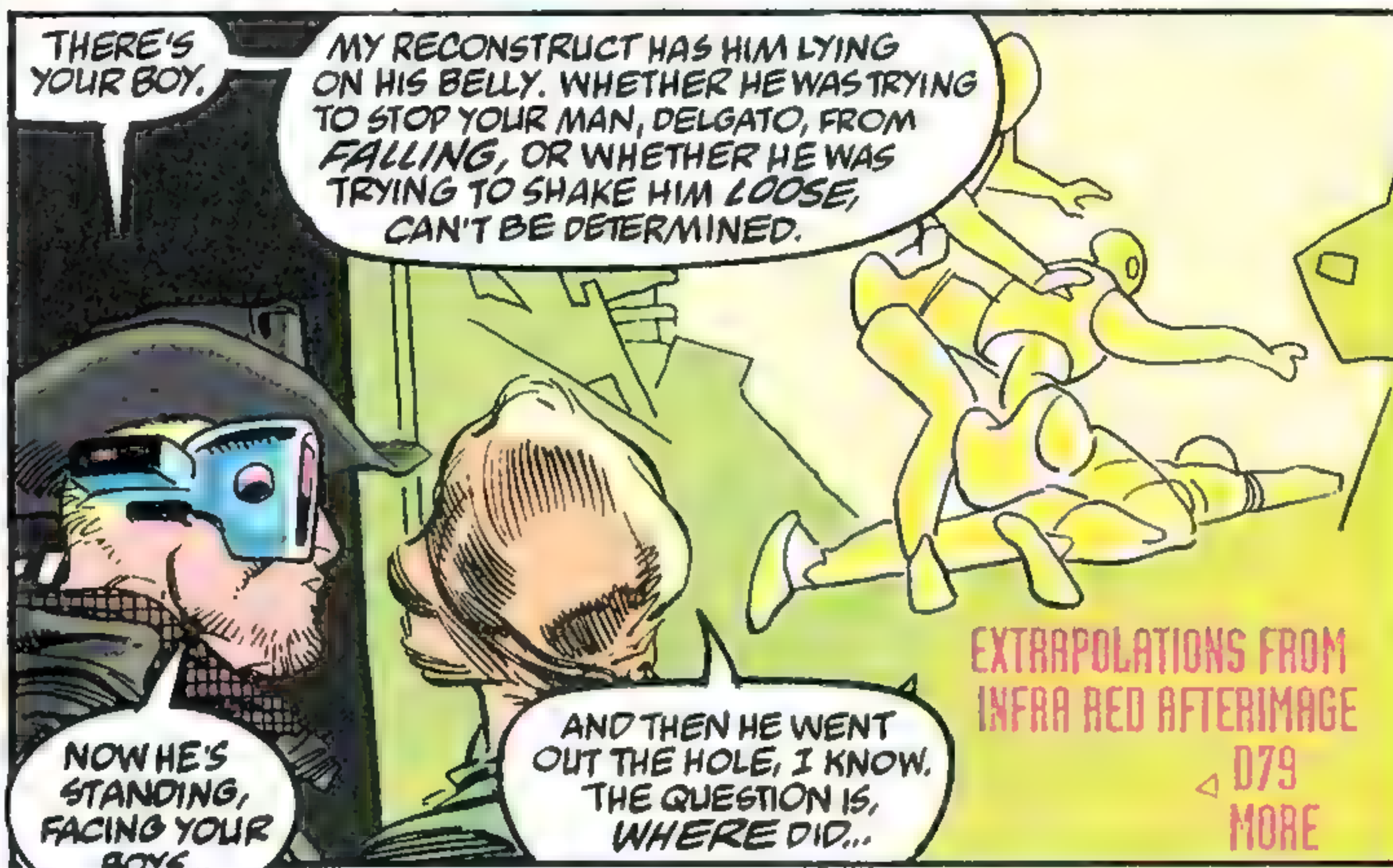
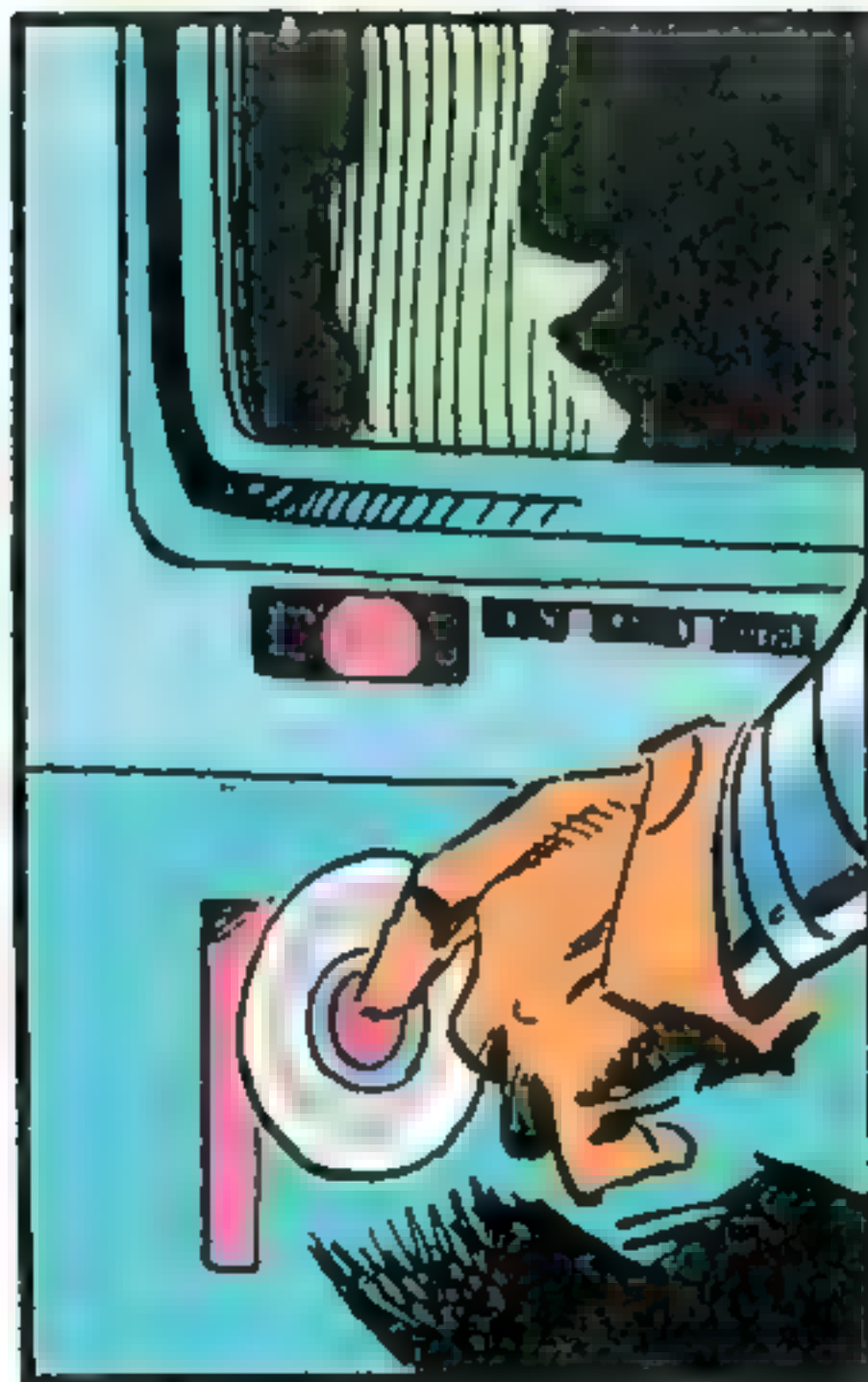
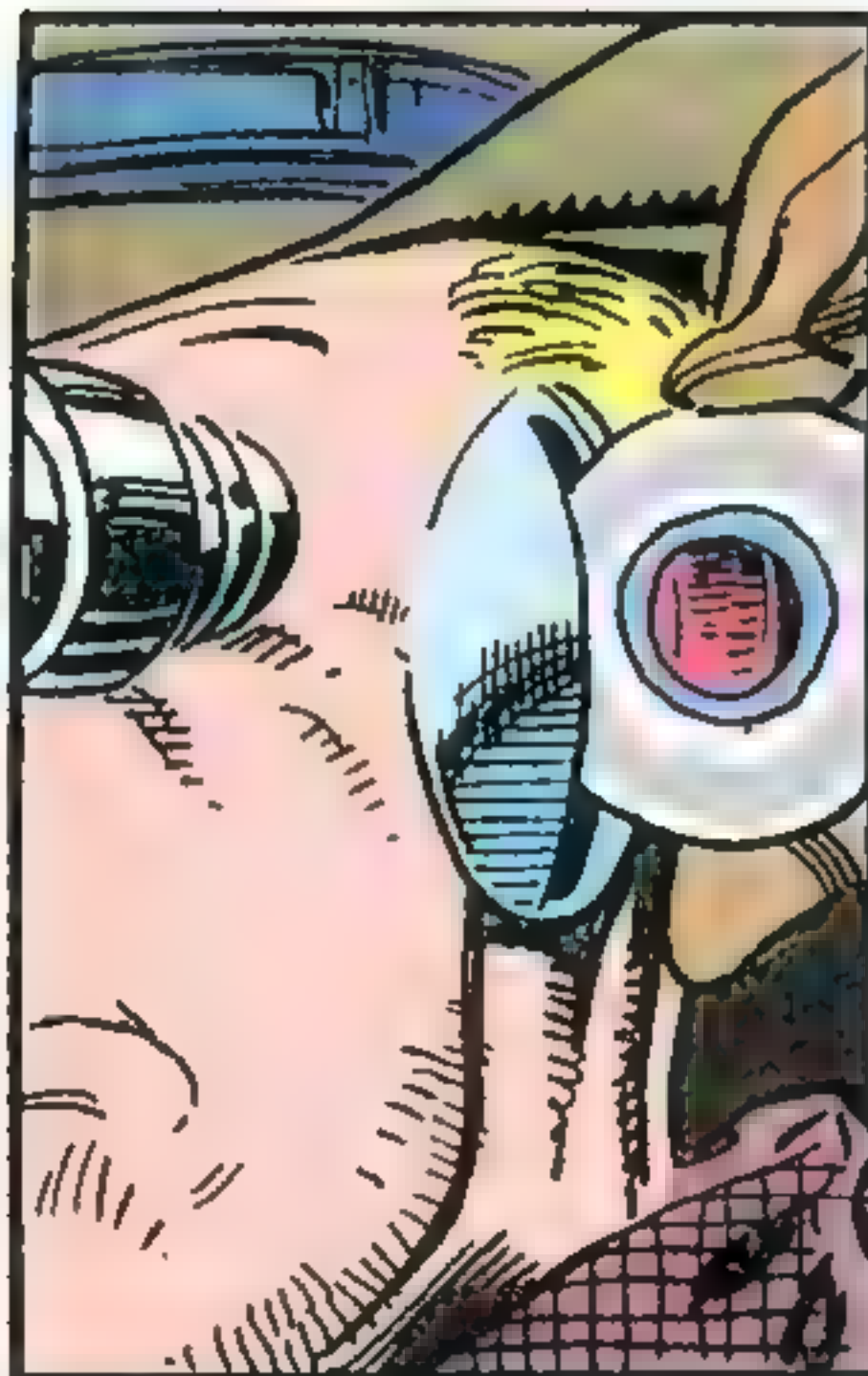
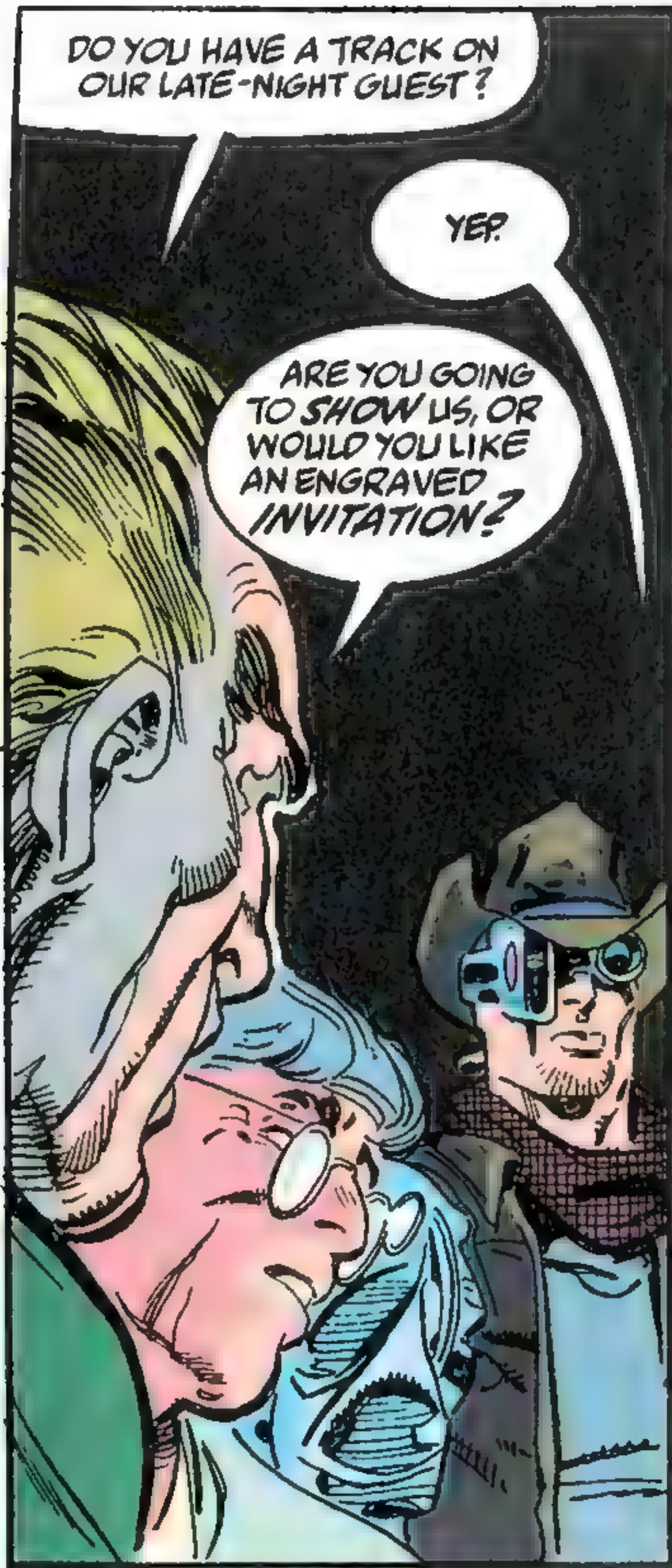


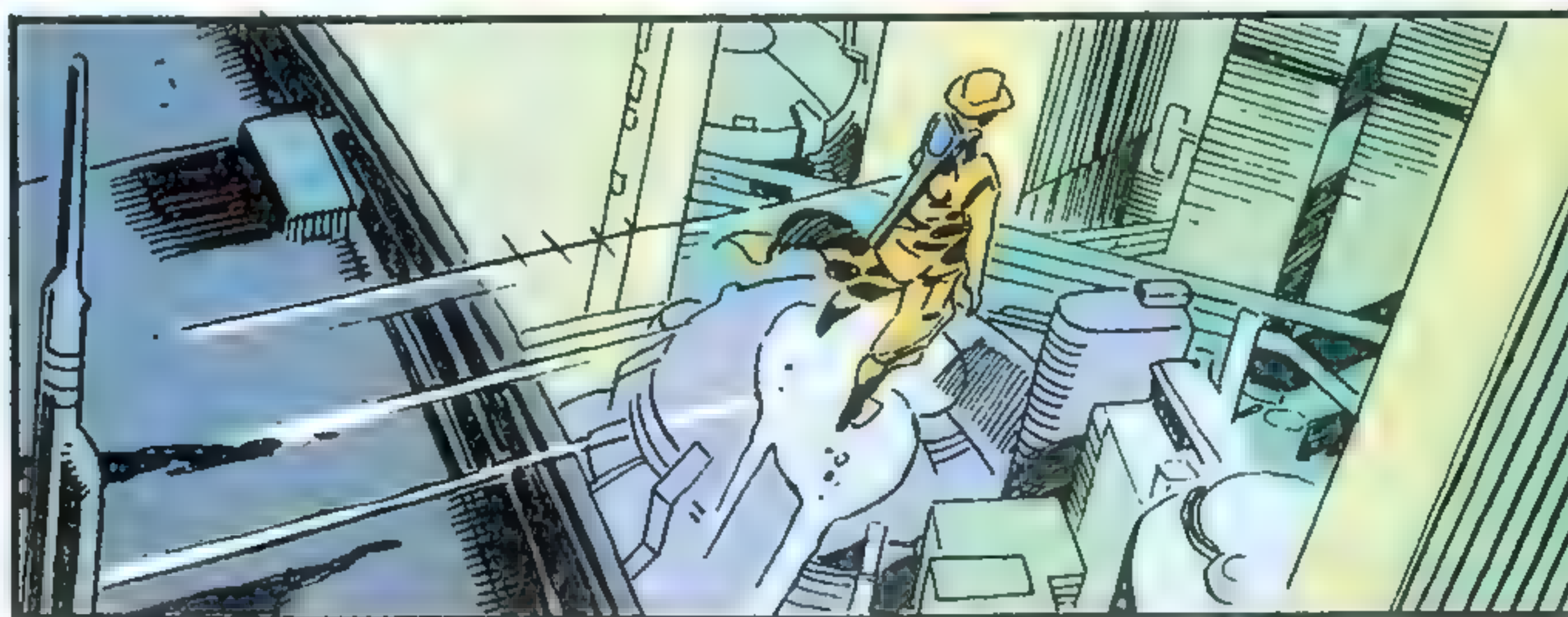
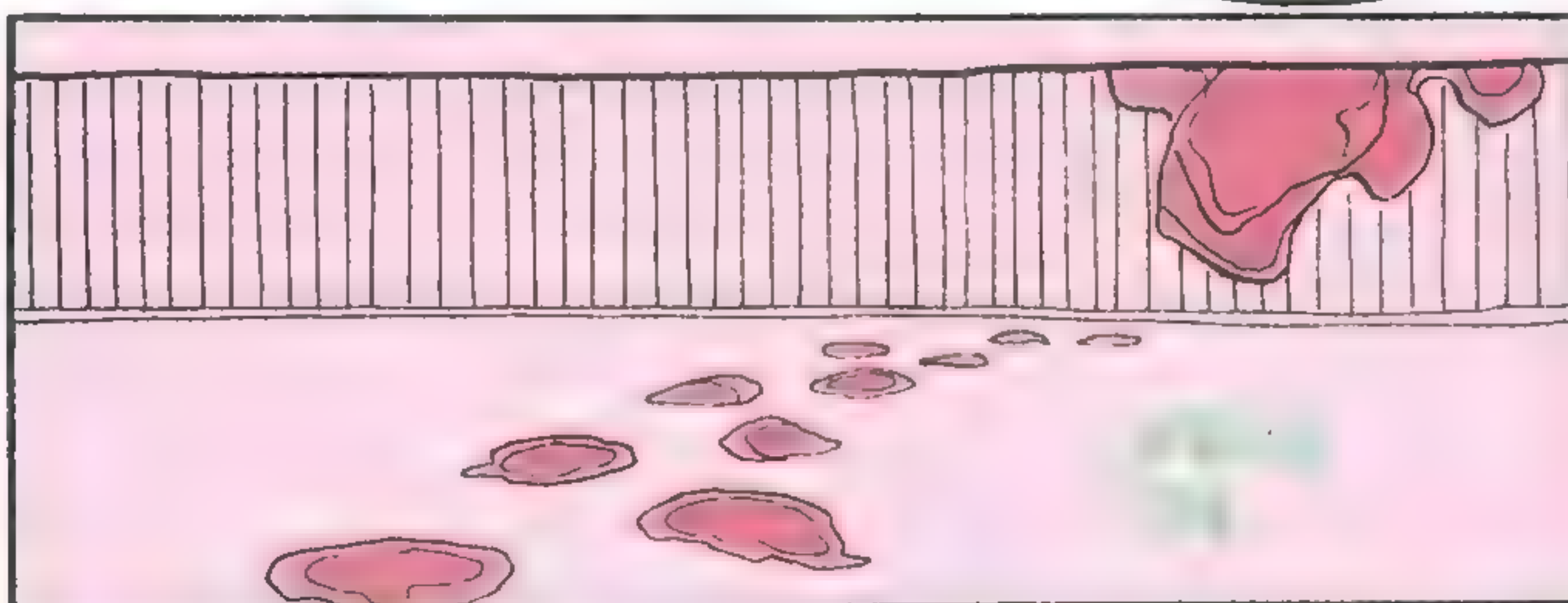
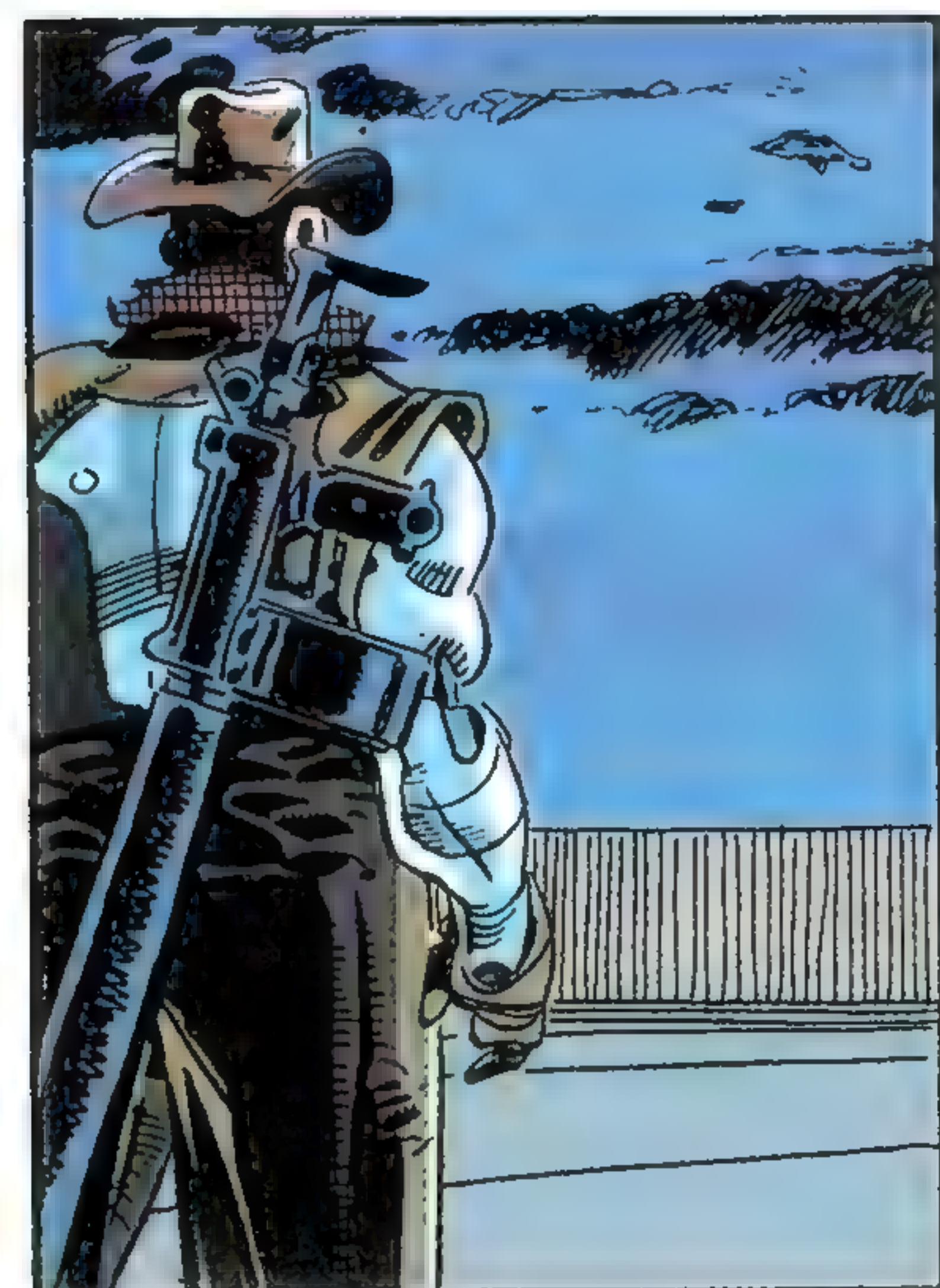
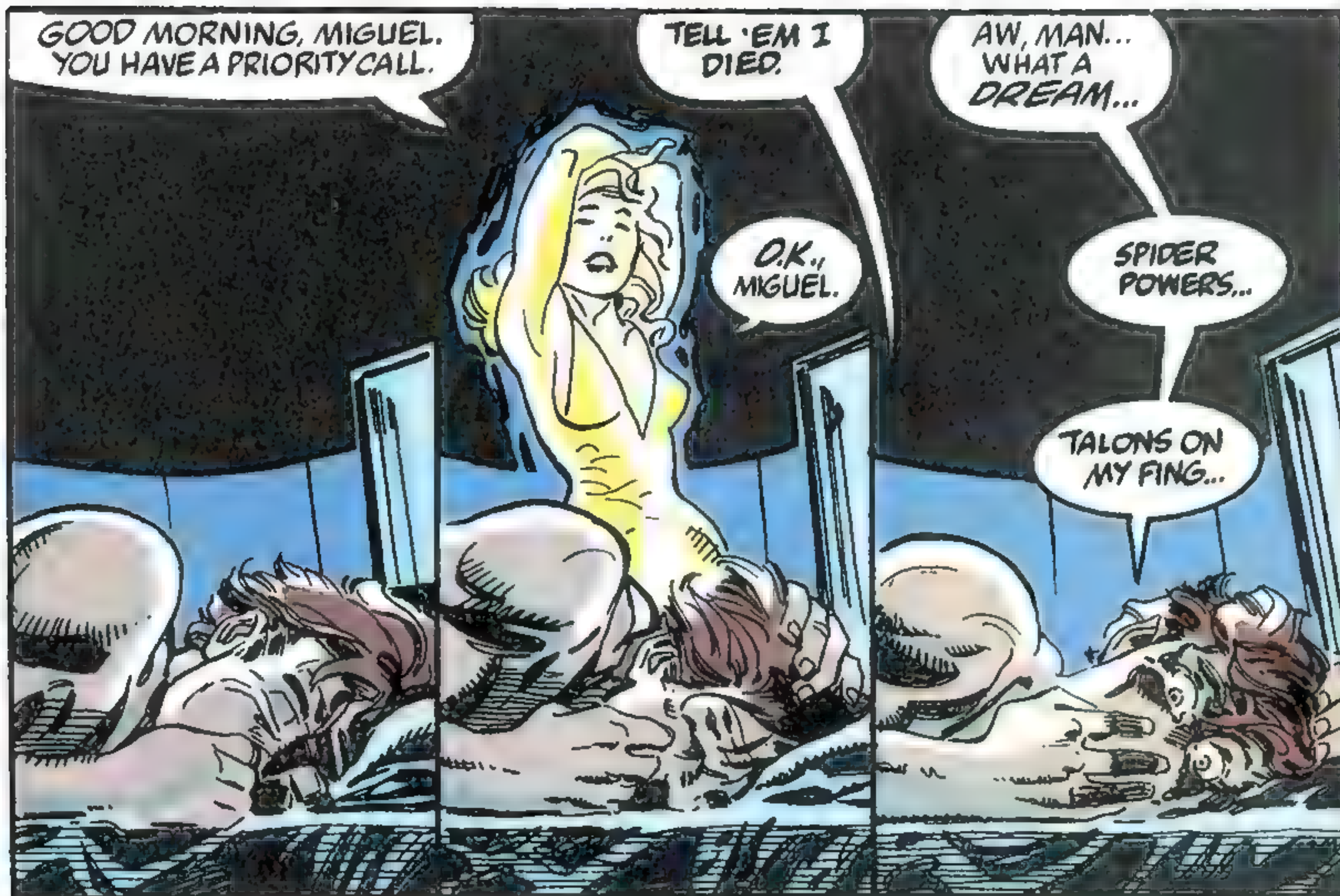
QUIET. I BET
HE CAN HEAR YOU
NO MATTER HOW
YOU WHISPER.



YOU'D
WIN YOUR
BET.









LYLA, DARKEN THE WINDOWS. THE SUN'S KILLING MY EYES.

DARKENED, MIGUEL.

PRIORITY CALL AGAIN.

WHO THE SHOCK IS IT?

YOUR BROTHER, GABRIEL.

OH, LORD. OKAY, PUT IT THROUGH.



MIGUEL.

MAN, YOU LOOK LIKE TOXIC WASTE.

THANKS, GABE. WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WHAT DO I WANT? MIG, DANA CALLED ME LAST NIGHT. SHE WAS FREAKING OUT. SHE SAID YOU WERE FREAKING OUT. NOW I'M FREAKING OUT. WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU?

NOTHING, GABE. NOTHING.



I'M COMING OVER THERE.

NO! DON'T!



TRANSMISSION BROKEN.

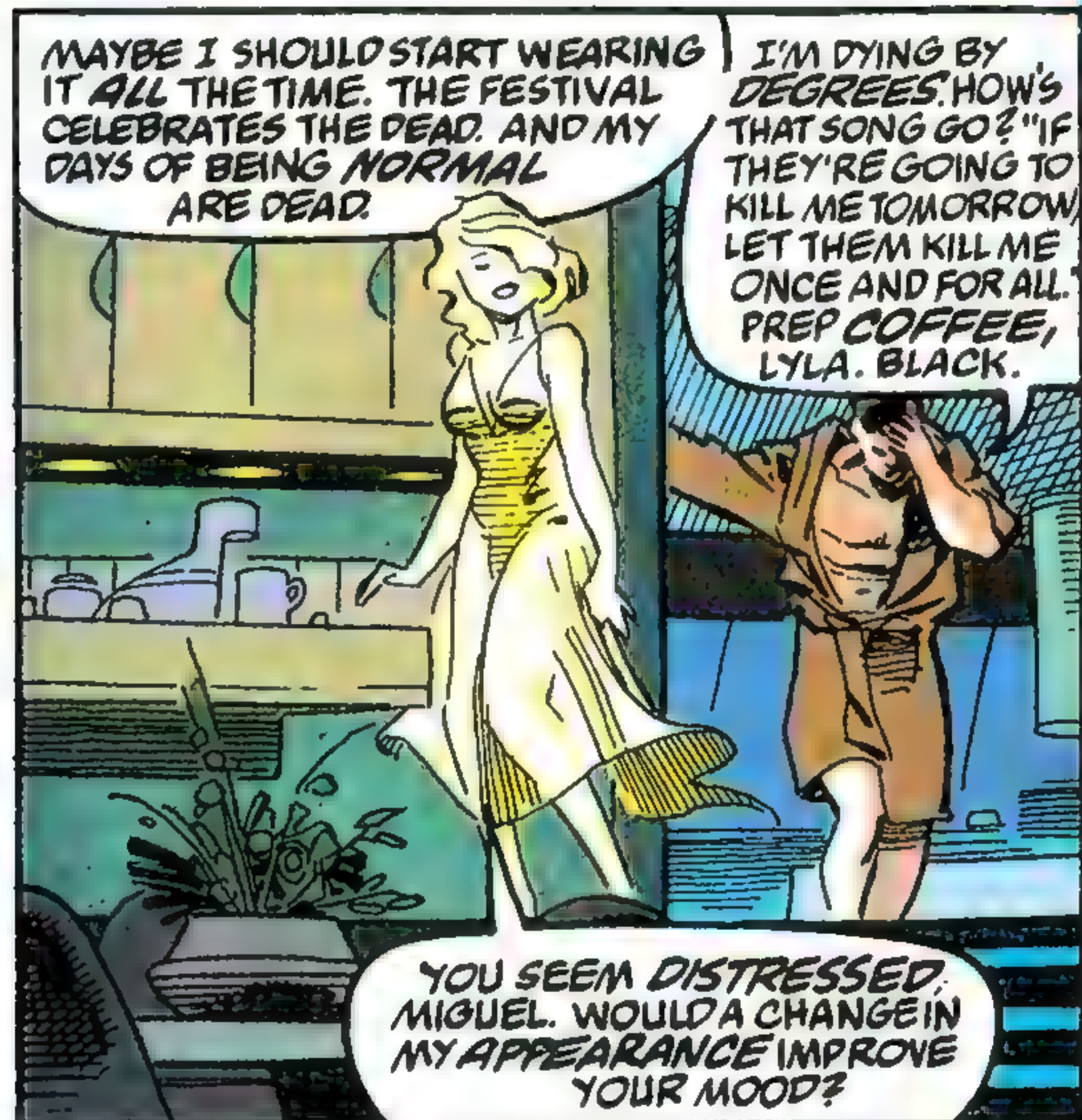
TERRIFIC.

Y'KNOW, IT'LL COST ME A FORTUNE, BUT I'LL HAVE TO START BUYING ALL MY CLOTHES MADE FROM UNSTABLE MOLECULES FABRIC. OTHERWISE, ONE WRONG MOVE AND "RRRIIIIPPP."

ONLY THING I OWN MADE FROM UMF IS THIS DEATH'S HEAD COSTUME I BOUGHT WHEN I WENT TO MEXICO LAST YEAR FOR THE DAY OF THE DEAD FESTIVAL.



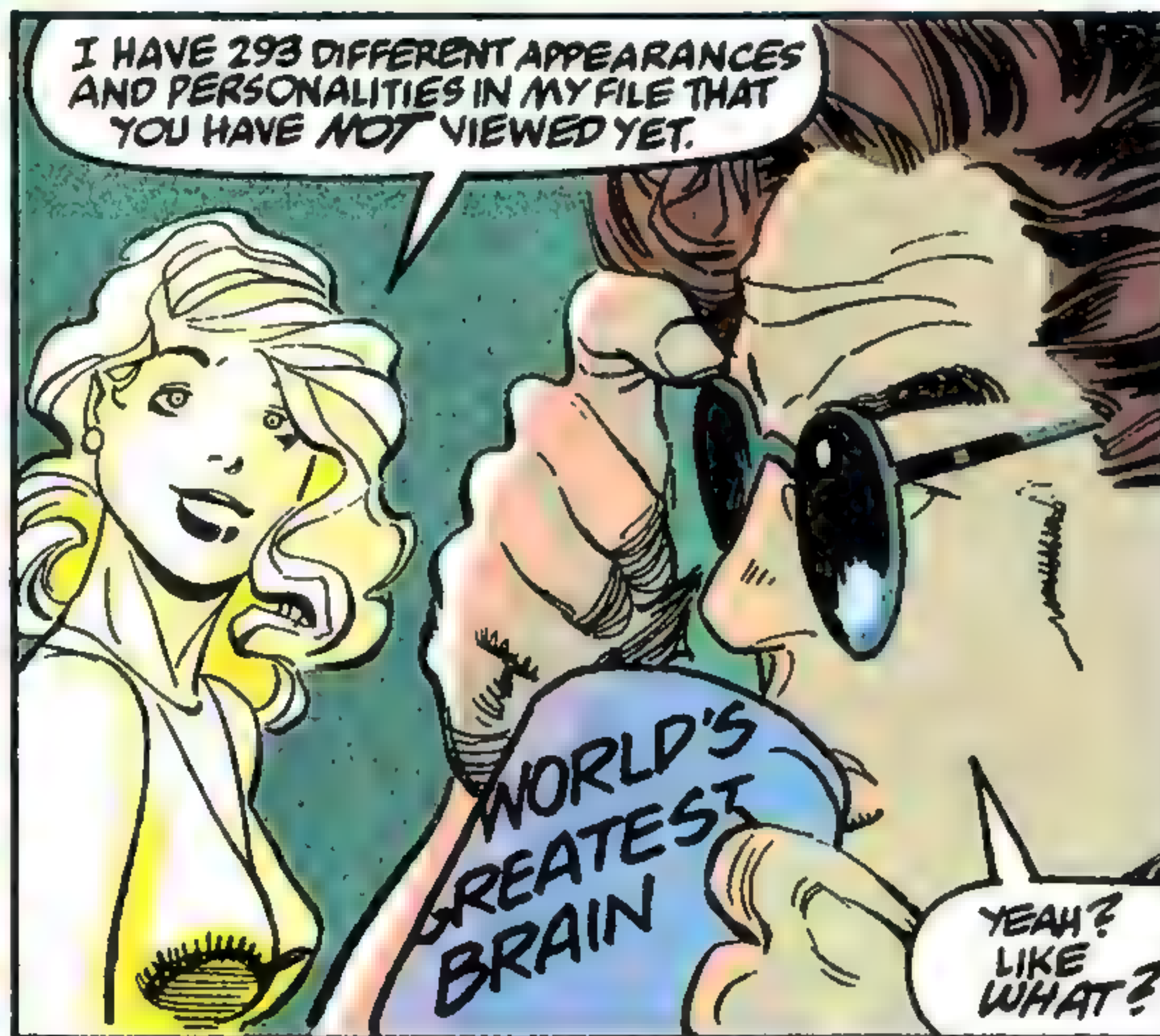
FESTIVAL CAN GET PRETTY WILD. I WANTED SOMETHING EXTRA STURDY.



MAYBE I SHOULD START WEARING IT ALL THE TIME. THE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES THE DEAD. AND MY DAYS OF BEING NORMAL ARE DEAD.

I'M DYING BY DEGREES. HOW'S THAT SONG GO? "IF THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME TOMORROW LET THEM KILL ME ONCE AND FOR ALL. PREP COFFEE, LYLA. BLACK."

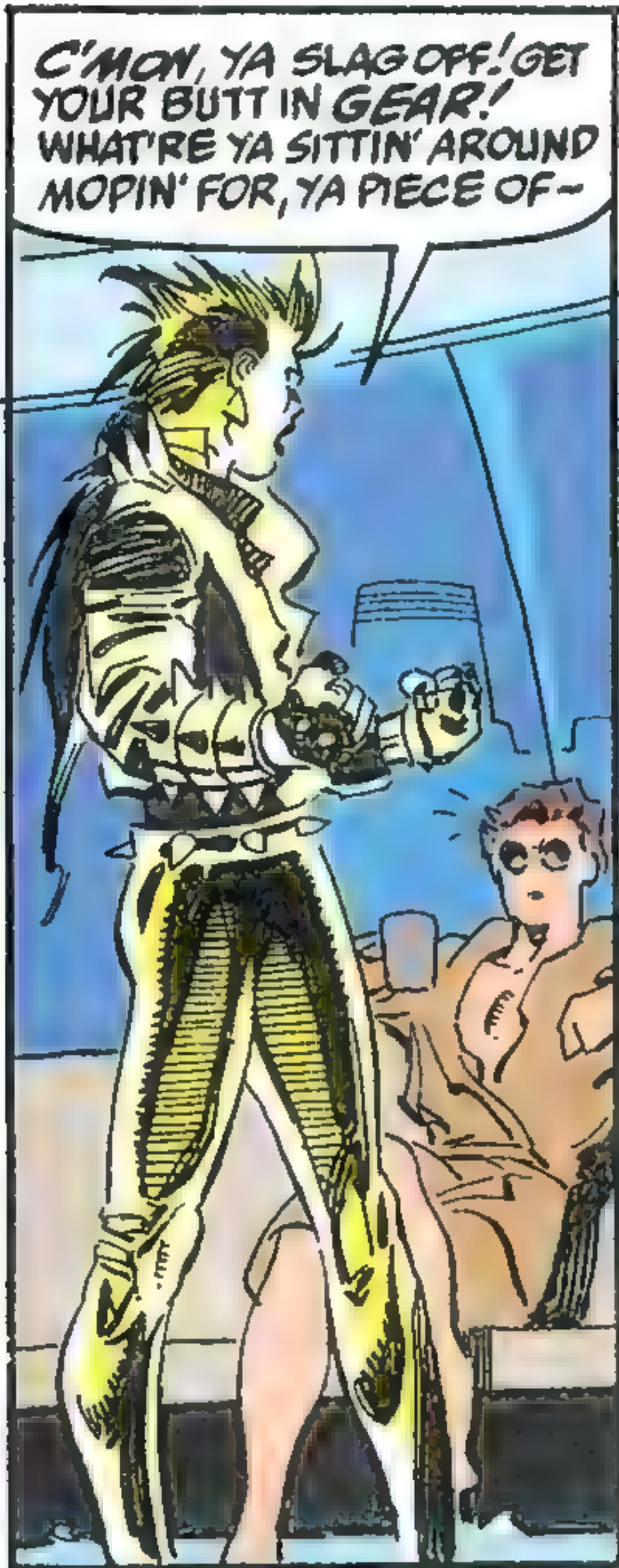
YOU SEEM DISTRESSED, MIGUEL. WOULD A CHANGE IN MY APPEARANCE IMPROVE YOUR MOOD?



I HAVE 293 DIFFERENT APPEARANCES AND PERSONALITIES IN MY FILE THAT YOU HAVE NOT VIEWED YET.

WORLD'S GREATEST BRAIN

YEAH? LIKE WHAT?

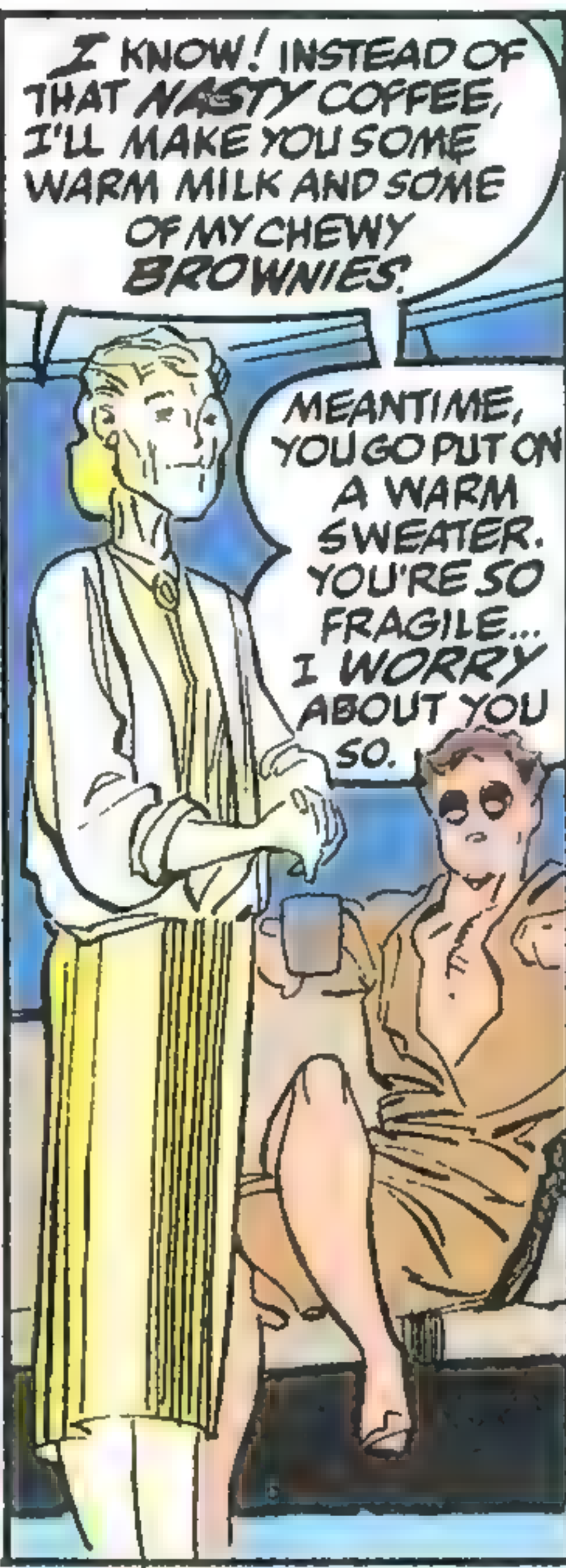


C'MON, YA SLAG OFF! GET YOUR BUTT IN GEAR! WHAT'RE YA SITTING AROUND MOPIN' FOR, YA PIECE OF-



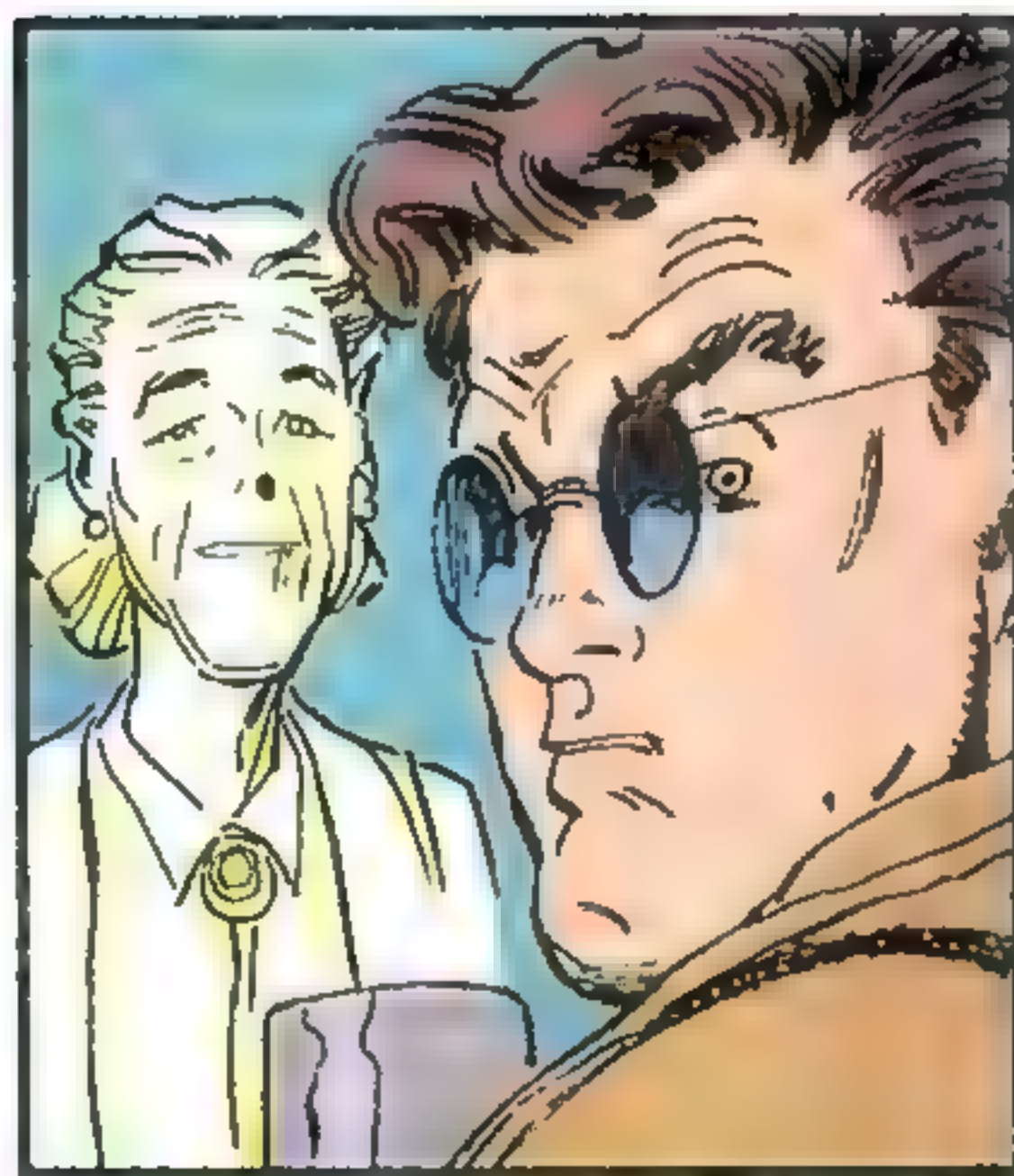
+ Ahem +

CERTAINLY, SIR, AN INDIVIDUAL OF YOUR BREEDING AND TASTE CAN PUT HIS INTELLECT TO GREATER USE THAN MERE SULKING.

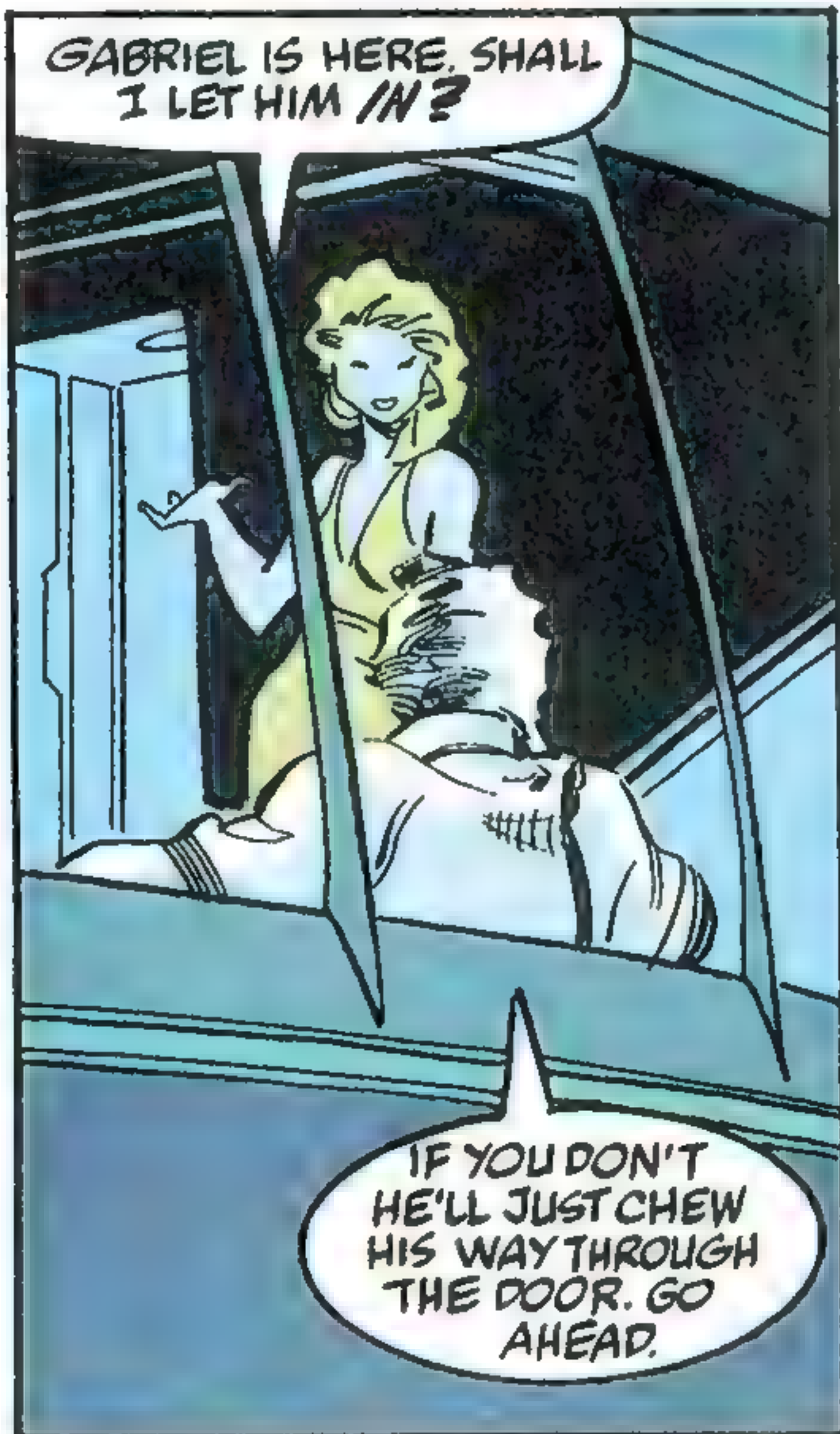
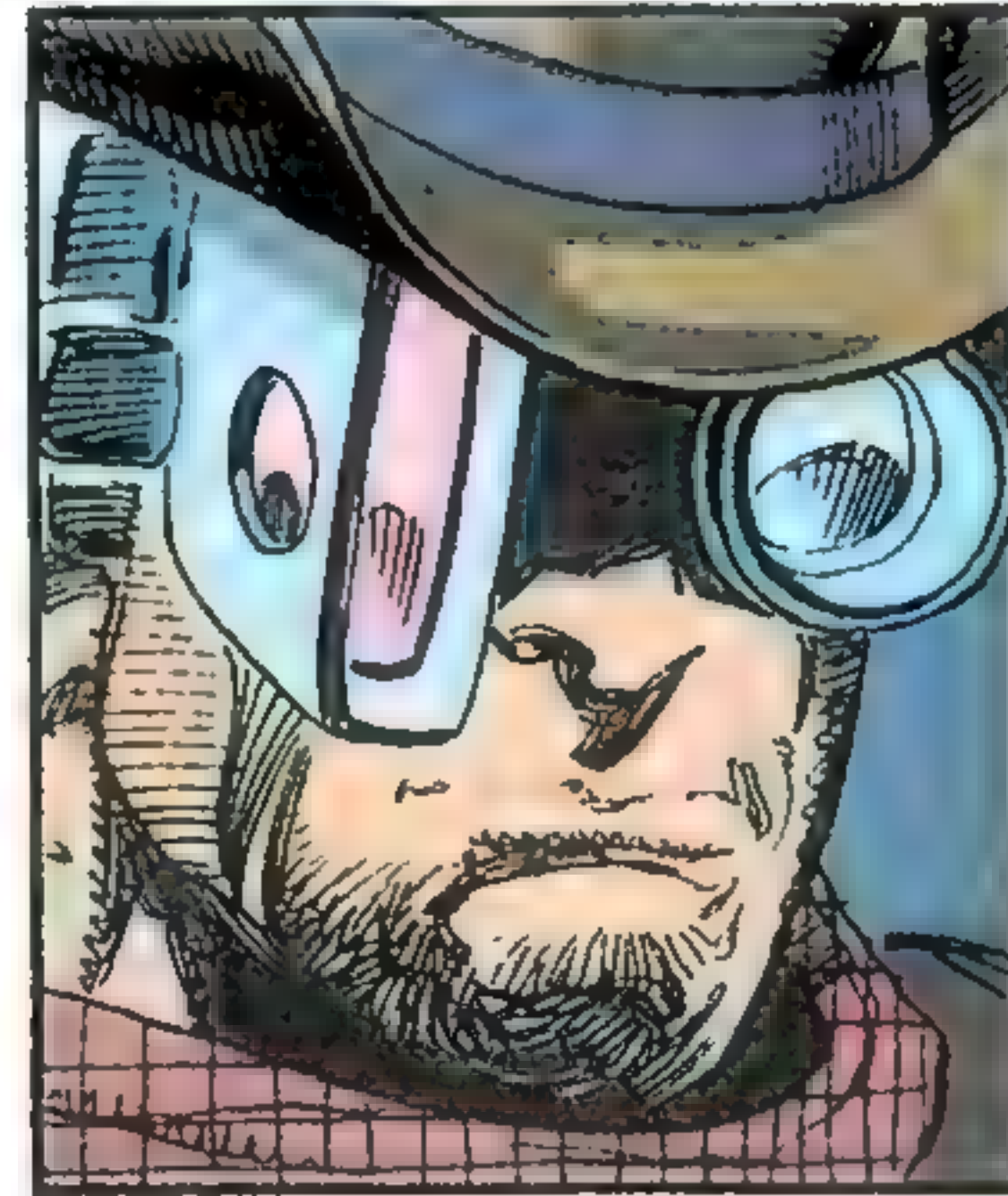
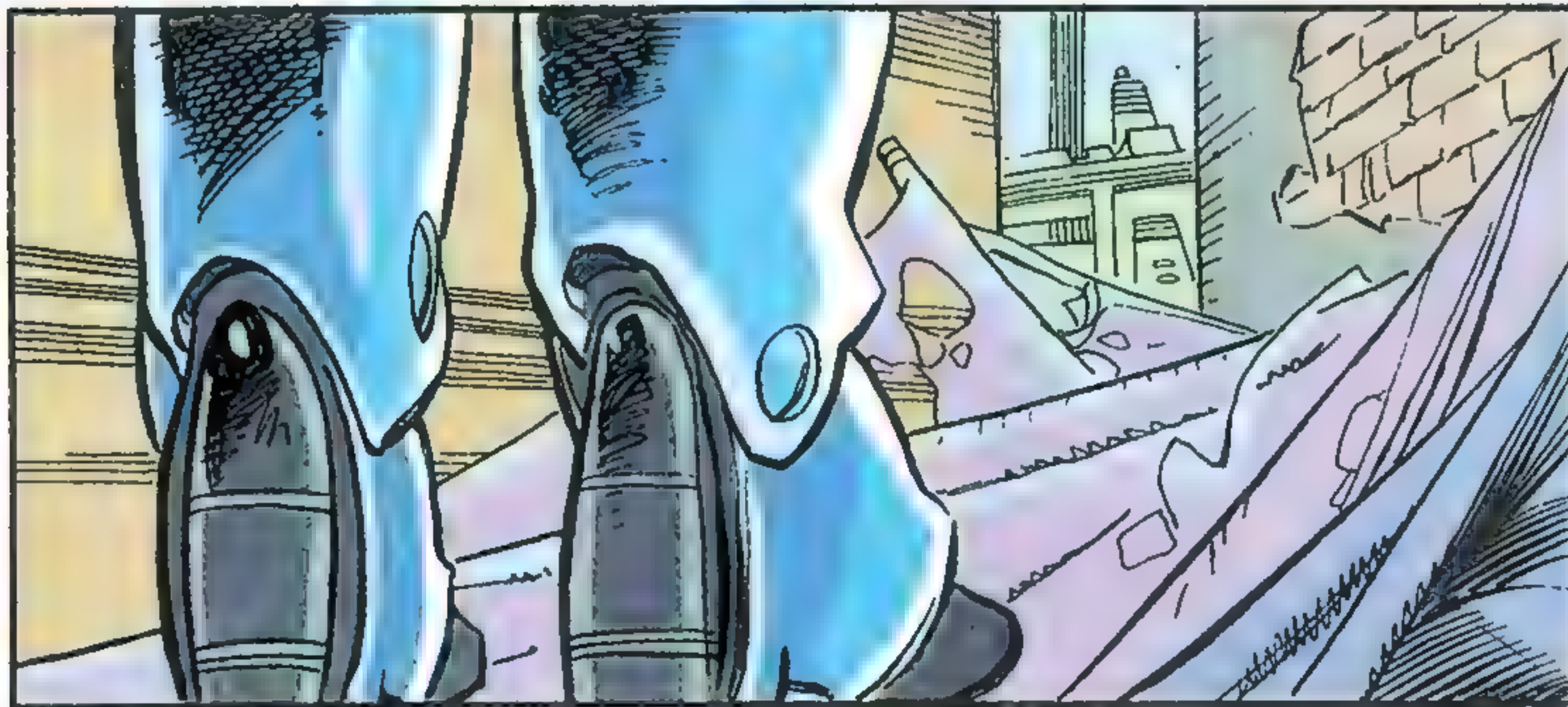


I KNOW! INSTEAD OF THAT NASTY COFFEE, I'LL MAKE YOU SOME WARM MILK AND SOME OF MY CHEWY BROWNIES.

MEANTIME, YOU GO PUT ON A WARM SWEATER. YOU'RE SO FRAGILE... I WORRY ABOUT YOU SO.

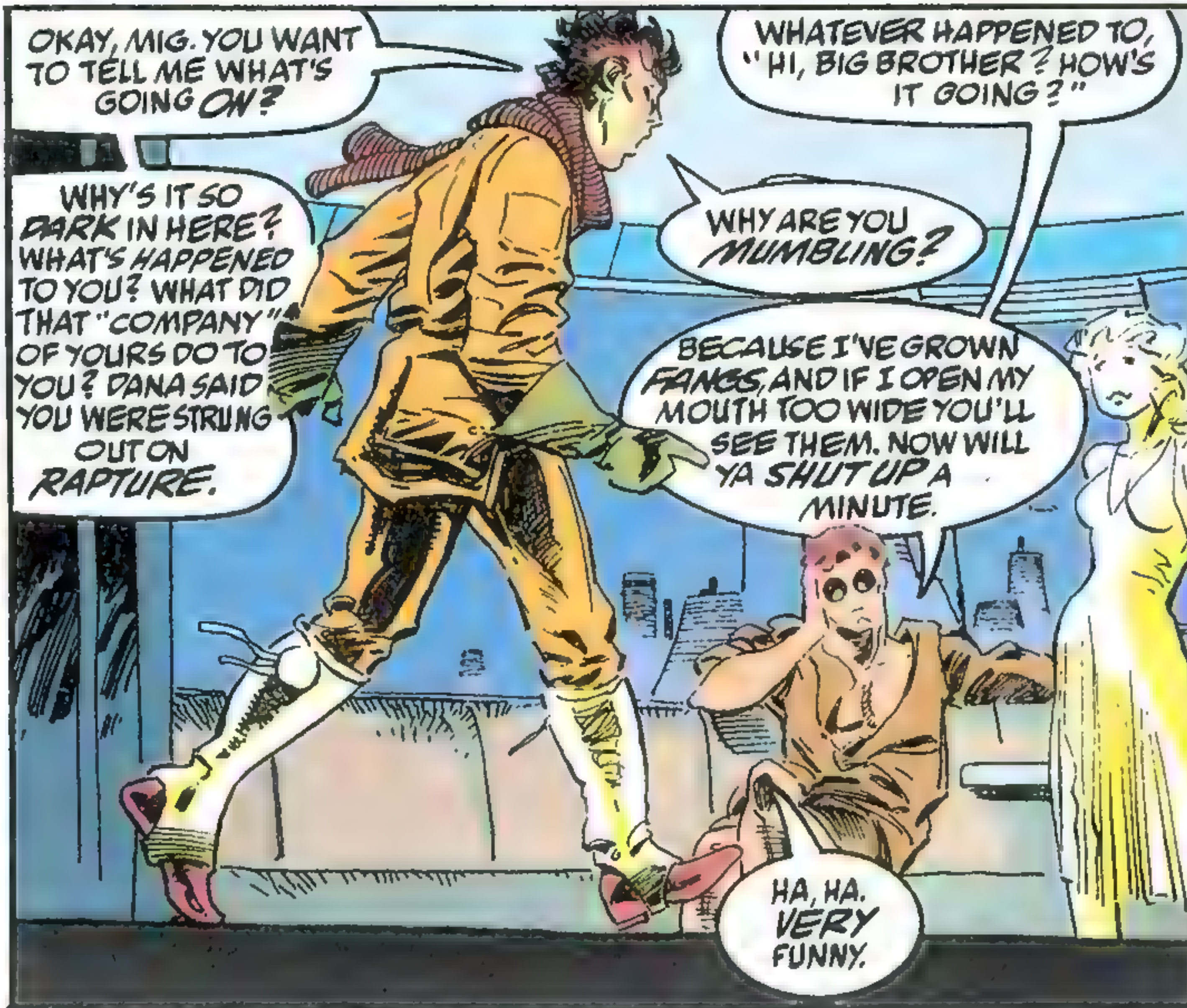


KILL THAT ONE.



GABRIEL IS HERE. SHALL I LET HIM IN?

IF YOU DON'T HE'LL JUST CHEW HIS WAY THROUGH THE DOOR. GO AHEAD.



OKAY, MIG. YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?

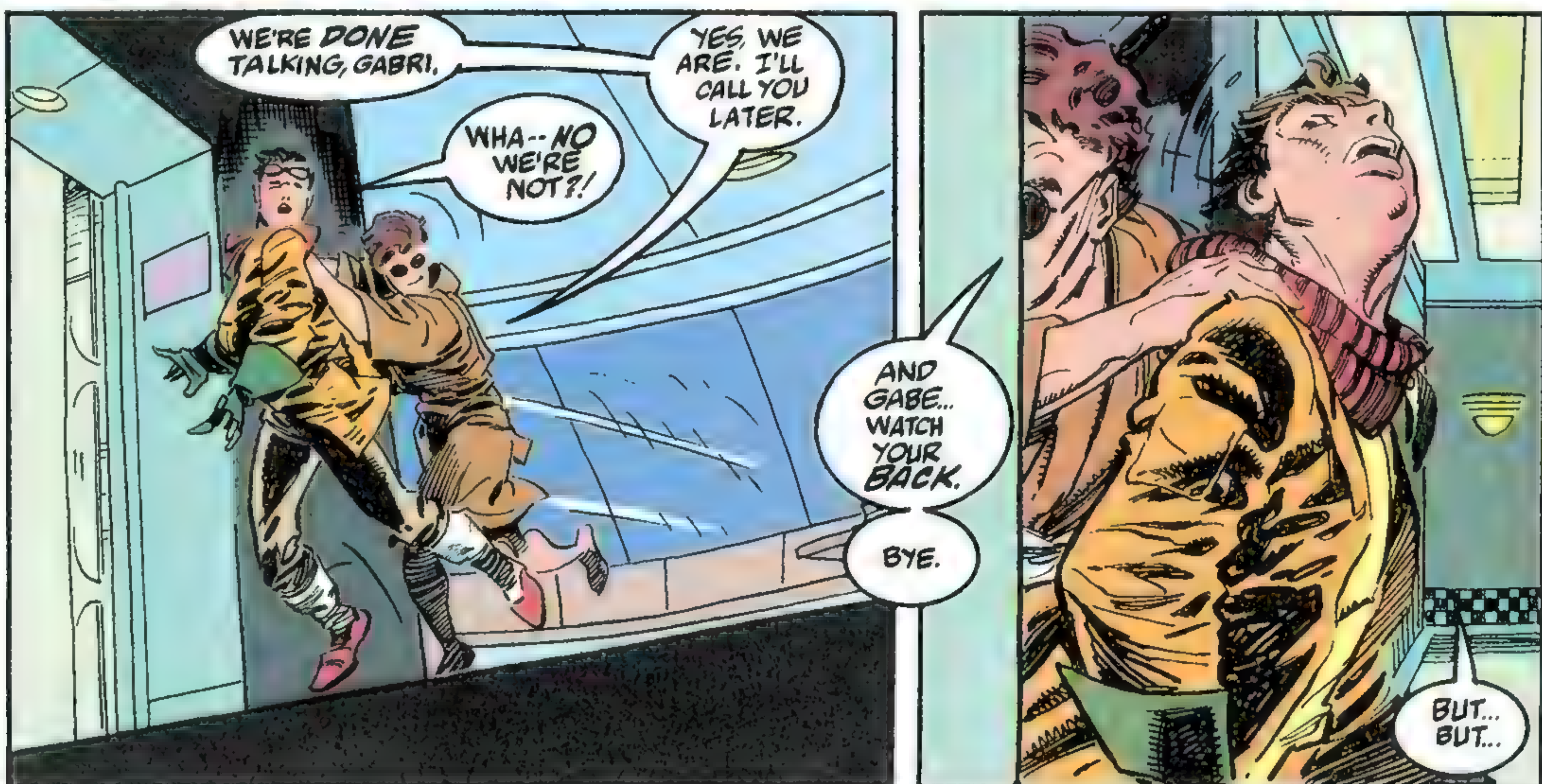
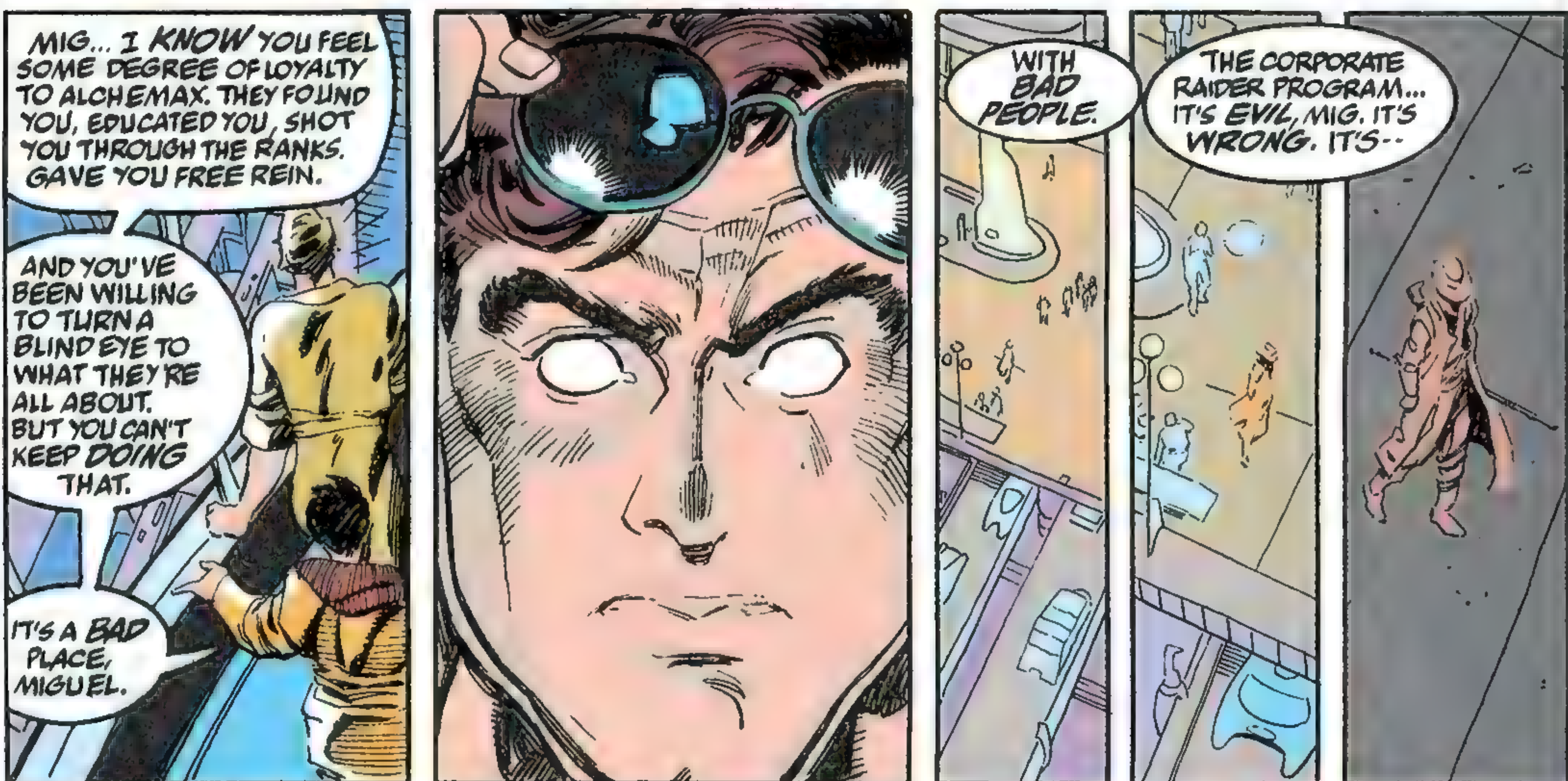
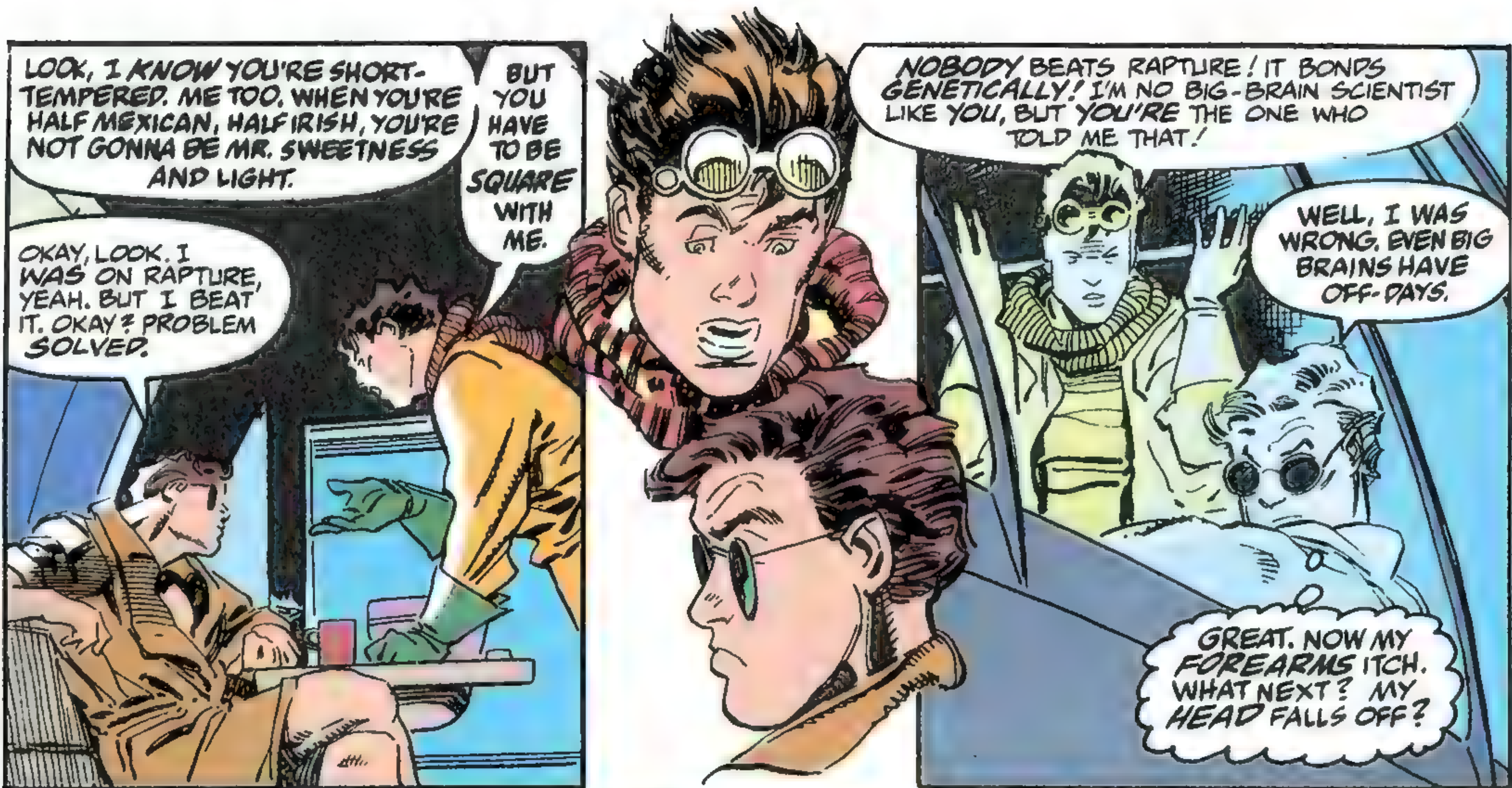
WHY'S IT SO DARK IN HERE? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? WHAT DID THAT "COMPANY" OF YOURS DO TO YOU? DANA SAID YOU WERE STRUNG OUT ON RAPTURE.

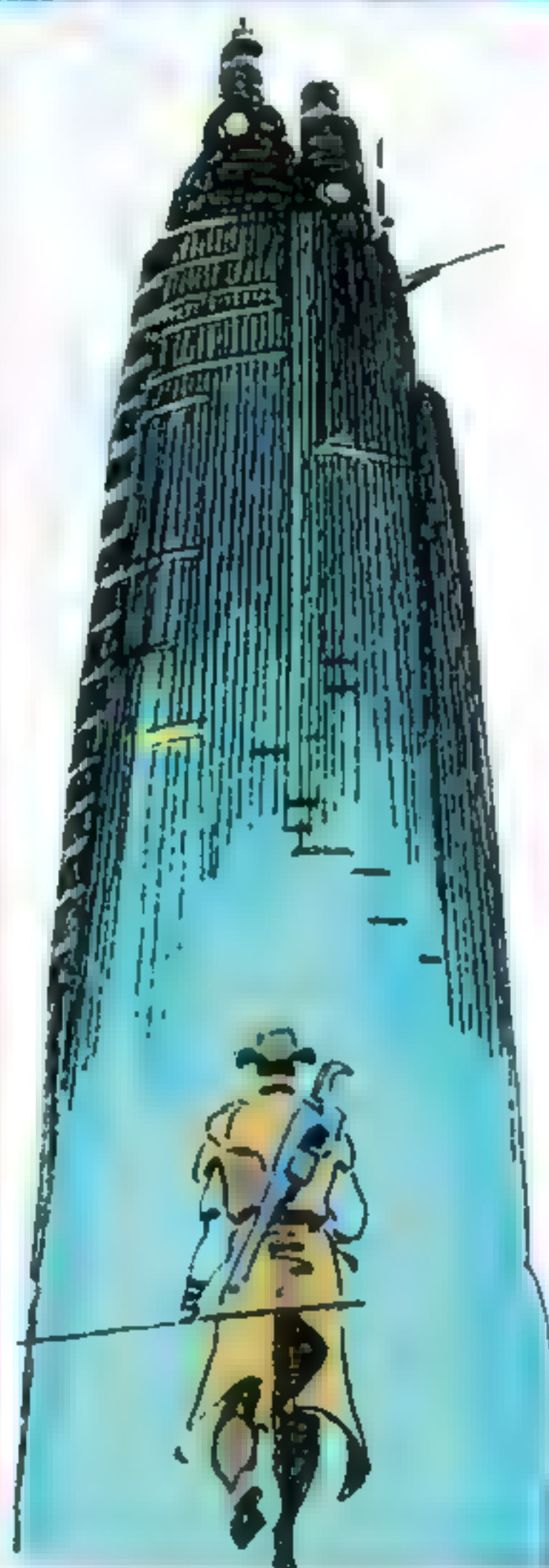
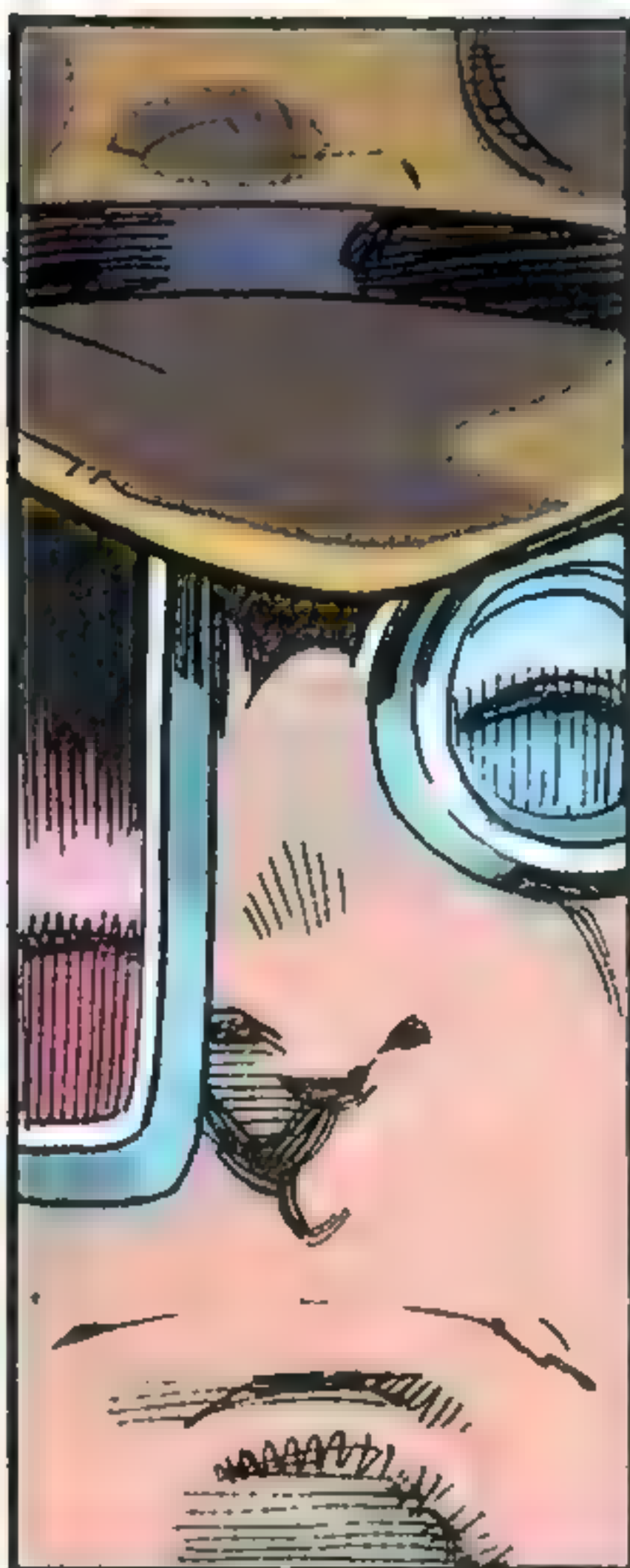
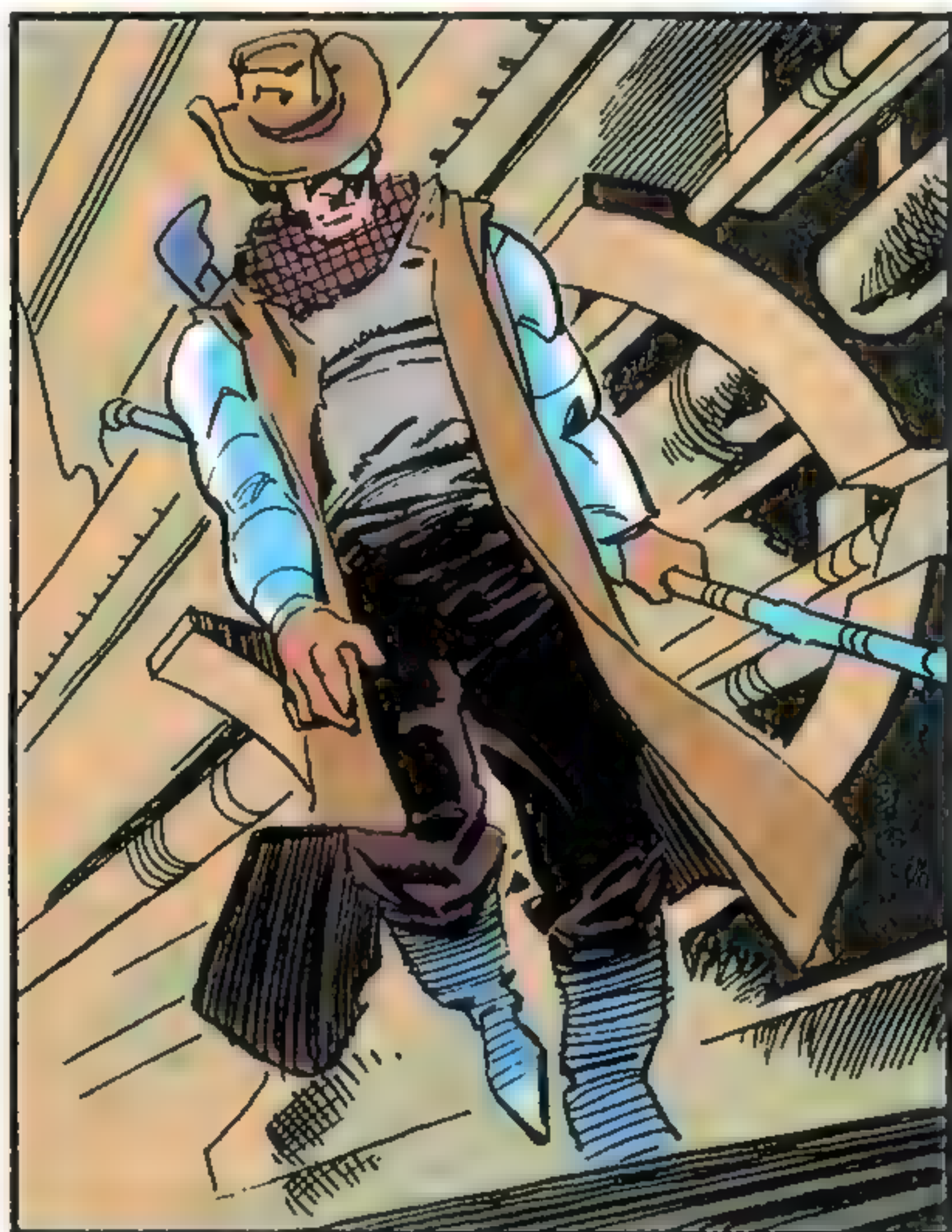
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO, "HI, BIG BROTHER? HOW'S IT GOING?"

WHY ARE YOU MUMBLING?

BECAUSE I'VE GROWN FANGS, AND IF I OPEN MY MOUTH TOO WIDE YOU'LL SEE THEM. NOW WILL YA SHUT UP A MINUTE.

HA, HA, VERY FUNNY.







LYLA!
OPEN THE
WINDOW!

THE WINDOWS DON'T
OPEN, MIGUEL. THEY'RE
SEALED FOR YOUR
PROTECTION.

MIGUEL... I'M
CONCERNED ABOUT
YOUR SAFETY.



ALL RIGHT,
THE UPDRAFTS
SHOULD CATCH
THE LIGHT
BYTE CLOTH
RIGHT ABOUT...

NOW!

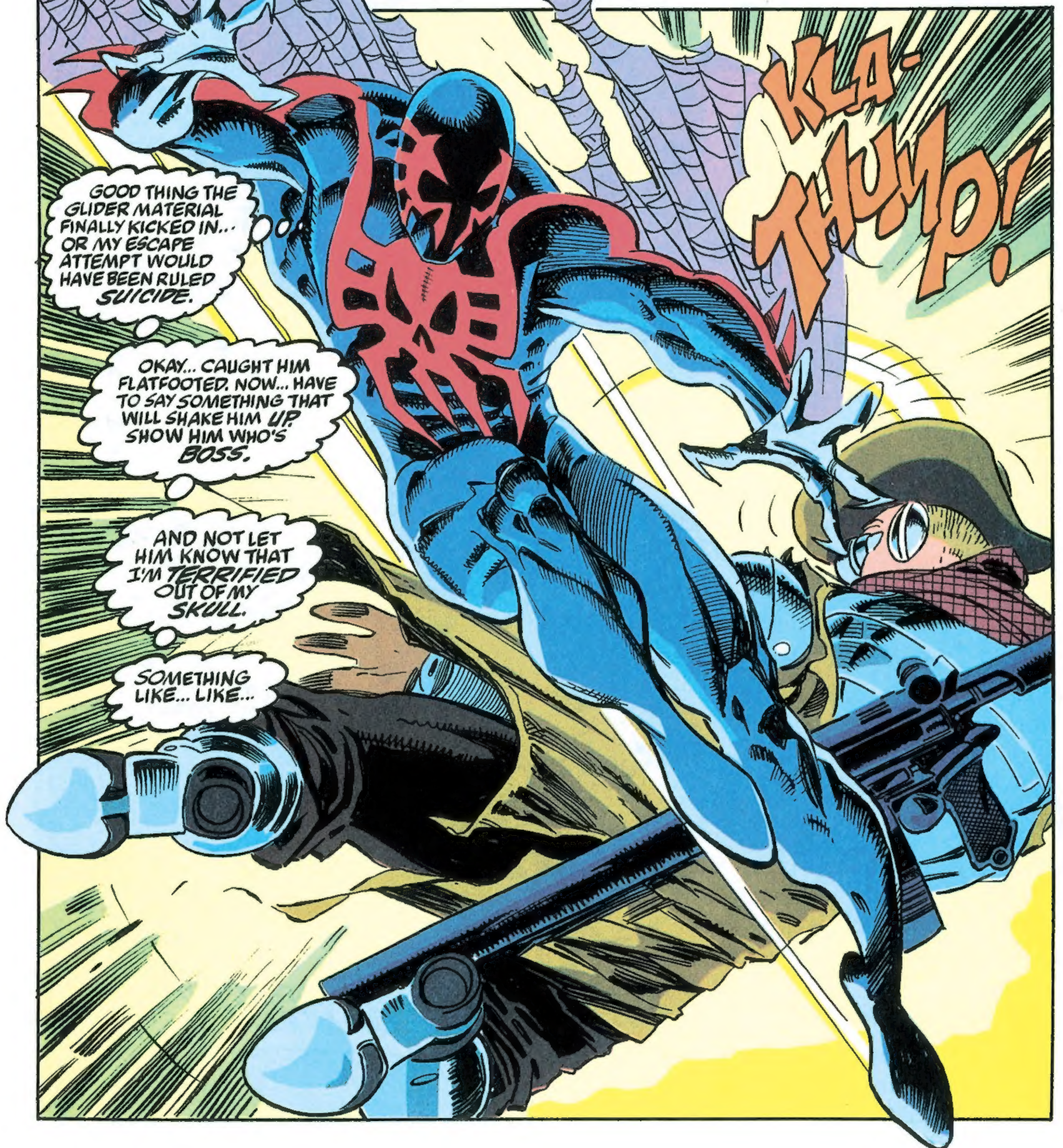
I
SAID...

RIGHT
ABOUT...

NOW!



I SAID...





HI.

THAT
WASN'T
IT.

Next: NOTHING
GAINED!



Z
O
N
S